



Accounted All Joy

~ A Study Syllabus for Disciples of Jesus Christ ~

by 'Pastor Joy'
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INTRODUCTION

Watching in the spirit with all prayer and supplication for all saints,¹ I am a Pastor for Jesus with the joy of the Lord for my strength.² Jesus said to ask in his name and we will receive, that our joy may be full.³ My first ordination to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ was through the Holy Spirit's confirmation of God's Word⁴. My second was under Harbor House Ministries, and the third under World Christianity Ministries.

I have for the past twenty years considered myself a *Mom Bomb*, saved through having children,⁵ repenting of self-centeredness and worldly idolatries⁶ in submission to the New Testament Church. With the Holy Spirit's instruction, and the gospel of Jesus Christ as ministered through a few Arizona, New Mexico and media ministries, this New Testament Church Family Foundational Study Syllabus was conceived. Because of the seriousness of the hour, I humbly submit a very rough copy of my thoughts. This is not a doctrinal discourse, but a study syllabus. It is footnoted with Bible Scriptures that will take the disciple from my shoreline view of God's Word into depths of oceanic scriptural splendors. Dive deep!

My entire walk with Jesus has been going from repentance to repentance -- laying down dead works.⁷ If we were having an informal visit, the ideas presented herein would be interwoven with, "*Look what I'm thinking here -- what are your thoughts on the matter?*" And if the conversation turned into proud and strifeful manipulations of degradation, we would have to excuse ourselves as Paul advised.⁸

I cannot express my thanks for the genuine prayer support it has taken to get even this far. It is with thanksgiving to God for the editor's He provided, who continue in the anonymity of their giving, 'without the left hand knowing what the right hand is doing' in the way of financial and closeted prayer support⁹. I do not believe that I would have been able to have prepared this love offering for the body of Christ without my team players -- at all! Nor do I even think that we did it as disjointed members separate from and without prayer support from Christ's corporate body of believers¹⁰. Thanks be to God for the many who laid their lives down for this work, for those who went before, and for those who will carry it on --

Christians of great faith, but amiss in an area of doctrine, can put a greater burden on others by their words and prayers than any but Christ Jesus could carry in us¹¹. My greatest trial in preparing this study has been the *spiritual warfare*¹² generated by such Christians, deceived and bound by false religious spirits and doctrines. *I continue to pray mercy for them*¹³ as I bear in mind the publican who did not trust in his own righteousness, but cried out, "*God, be merciful to me a sinner.*"¹⁴

The blind are still leading the blind.¹⁵ Jesus said that he would heal them except for the hardness of their hearts.¹⁶ We all need the eyes of our understanding to be flooded with light¹⁷. The world is so wicked, if it were possible even the very elect would be led astray.¹⁸ If we've been captured, or led astray by deceivers¹⁹ we must hope to come to a full knowledge of the truth.²⁰ We know that God placed teachers in the body to instruct us,²¹ but we do not *need* man to teach us, for the anointing we received will lead us into all truth!²² God has given us His spirit to teach us. It's the Spirit that bears witness because it is truth.²³ Jesus said we will know the

¹ Ephesians 6:18

² Nehemiah 8:10

³ John 16:24

⁴ Matthew 28:18-20 1 Corinthians 1:17,18 Luke 4:18,19

⁵ 1 Timothy 2:15

⁶ 1 John 2:15-17 Colossians 3:5

⁷ Romans 1:32

⁸ 2 Timothy 2:23-26 Titus 3:9-11

⁹ Matthew 6:1-6

¹⁰ Ephesians 6:

¹¹ John 15:5

¹² Ephesians 6:10-18

¹³ Matthew 5:7

¹⁴ Luke 18:10-14

¹⁵ Matthew 15:14

¹⁶ Matthew 13:15

¹⁷ Ephesians 1:17-19

¹⁸ Mark 13:22

¹⁹ 2 Peter 2:2

²⁰ Colossians 1:9

²¹ 1 Corinthians 12:28

²² 1 John 2:27

truth and the truth *will* set us free.²⁴ We must put our trust in the Lord rather than our confidence in man,²⁵ for we each must give account to God!²⁶ Let us therefore search the scriptures, and contend for that first faith²⁷!

Our freedom to practice non-denominational religious beliefs is provided for in the Constitution of the United States of America. Religious freedom allows individual's to observe their personal relationship with God without registering under a nationally recognized church. This provision for privacy permits an intimacy with God that not every believer practices, but has a right to in the United States, and should with respect for the Constitution, protect .

Thanks, Linda, for reminding me to include: STUDY DIRECTIONS

1. Ask God's blessing, Holy Spirit's teaching, and anointing on teachers and students -- for the eyes of your understanding to be flooded with light --
2. Either read *Accounted All Joy* all the way through and get the general overview of the complete study, or select and read one section to familiarize yourself with that particular subject and its course of direction.
3. Reread the portion you want to thoroughly study until you understand it.
4. Then read that portion again, including each 'foot-noted' (small numbered) Bible Scripture reference listed at the bottom of the page when it is referred to in the text.
5. Go ahead, get carried away, and read the surrounding scriptures for the full context of each scriptural reference. Enjoy it and decide not to be in a hurry to finish the study. Let learning along the way be your goal instead of getting somewhere at some time.
6. Then go back and read the specific referenced scriptures in their context to the Bible study section you're working in.
7. Ask yourself questions pertaining to key words and phrases to see if you've grasped concepts. If you didn't "get it," it's ok. Either reread it, come back to it later, or put in on your Jesus shelf -- your understanding is God's business.²⁸

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As this was given to me, so I give it to any who will receive it -- *with love*!

Counting it all joy,³⁰ holding a grudge against none³¹, I am simply and finally set free³² in Christ Jesus. -- With Love, Pastor Joy

²³ Romans 8:16

²⁴ John 8:32

²⁵ Psalm 118:8

²⁶ Romans 14:12

²⁷ Jude 1:3

²⁸ Romans 14:4

²⁹ Matthew 10:8

³⁰ James 1:2

³¹ Leviticus 19:18

³² Luke 4:18

CHAPTER I.

When I submitted the ***Hebrews 6:1 'Principles of the Doctrine of Christ'*** Bible study to our church board for editing, it was confronted as unintelligible study notes. The recommendation was that I make an explanation of my notes; even present a summary teaching to accompany the scripture references relating to the five principles of Christ's doctrine that Paul listed in his letter to the Hebrews.

God's Word stands on its own³³, speaks for itself³⁴, is easy to be understood³⁵, and does not need interpretation³⁶. It is always edifying to see how the Holy Spirit moves and works between brethren, though. In submission to what is an apparent need to facilitate the presentation of what I hope God will permit³⁷ to be a valuable springboard for growth into the fullness of Jesus Christ³⁸, I want to clearly explain that I do not think that anyone will prosper in growth from my spoonfuls of thought on the depth of the richness³⁹ of God as much as they will from a complete examination of the referenced scriptures in Biblical context.

It is with the highest esteem for my fellow laborers in Christ, who honored me with their selfless support, commitment, and encouragement while preparing this, that the six Principles of the Doctrine of Christ are presented in brief commentary form with Bible references for their more in depth examination. The goal being to create a straight forward, one shot study of salvation. A light lunch turned into the Kings Banquet -- Pastor Joy

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the
PRINCIPLES OF THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST,
let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the --

- I. Foundation of Repentance from Dead Works and of***
- II. Faith Toward God, of the***
- III. Doctrine of Baptisms, and of***
- IV. Laying on of Hands, and of***
- V. Resurrection of the Dead, and of***
- VI. Eternal Judgment.***

I. FOUNDATION OF REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS:

Desiring Jesus' Lordship: If every act of man generates from a value application, creative thought, deductive reasoning, emotional, physical, or spiritual response, when the unregenerate (reprobate) mind accepts salvation through Christ Jesus by faith, the initial dead work to repent of is laying aside our own will and way for Gods.⁴⁰

Whether we were conformed to this world⁴¹ through the philosophies and traditions of men⁴², practicing self-will without submission to God's will⁴³, practicing idolatry in the form of greed and covetousness⁴⁴, or worshipping the fallen stars of deceiving religions⁴⁵, the works men

³³ 2 Timothy 3:16

³⁴ 1 John 2:27

³⁵ Matthew 11:15

³⁶ 2 Peter 1:20

³⁷ Ephesians 4:13 Hebrews 6:3

³⁸ Ephesians 4:13-15

³⁹ Romans 11:33

⁴⁰ Romans 10:9,10 2 Timothy 1:9,10 Acts 26:18

⁴¹ Romans 12:2

⁴² Colossians 2:8

⁴³ 1 Samuel 15:23

⁴⁴ Colossians 3:5,13,14

pursue outside of discipleship to Jesus Christ are dead.⁴⁶ This step of repentance from dead works is more than acknowledging sin with a repentant heart to accept God's free gift of salvation. This is choosing to take up our cross and follow after Christ⁴⁷ as a disciple seeking His Lordship⁴⁸ not just for eternal life, but in this world as well. We are to walk in His steps⁴⁹ in the straight and narrow way,⁵⁰ in repentance from dead works⁵¹ pursuing Godliness.⁵²

"If you love me you'll obey God," said Jesus⁵³. Because the wages of sin are death⁵⁴ disciples of Christ must study to show themselves workman approved, rightly dividing the Word of God⁵⁵, in order to know the will of God. Though we are not saved by works, but by faith⁵⁶, the law was given to teach us what sin is⁵⁷.

"The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand," declared John the Baptist before Jesus arrived.⁵⁸ Jesus bought us more than entry into God's eternal glory.⁵⁹ Through Christ the Kingdom of God is available within to all those who obey God.⁶⁰ We abide in Jesus, and He within us.⁶¹ The sons of God are led by His Spirit⁶², and like Jesus, we can be one with He, the Father, and the Holy Spirit.⁶³

"You cannot enter the Kingdom of God if..." As presented in several new testament scriptures⁶⁴, sin with its fruits of the flesh⁶⁵ prevents entry into the Kingdom of God. This does not negate that all who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved⁶⁶," but more specifically refers to a block to unity in the Spirit with Jesus, Holy Spirit and Father God. Though, as with salvation, the gift of the Holy Spirit is not earned by works.⁶⁷

⁴⁵ Colossians 2:18

⁴⁶ Phillipians 3:8

⁴⁷ Luke 9:23

⁴⁸ John 15:7,8

⁴⁹ 1 Peter 2:20-23

⁵⁰ Matthew 7:13,14

⁵¹ Ephesians 4:17-19 Titus 1:16 Romans 13:12-14

⁵² Ephesians 5:11 Titus 2:7,8; 11-14 James 2:24

⁵³ John 14:15

⁵⁴ Romans 6:23

⁵⁵ 2 Timothy 2:15

⁵⁶ Ephesians 2:8-10

⁵⁷ Galatians 3:10-14

⁵⁸ Matthew 3:2

⁵⁹ 1 Peter 5:10

⁶⁰ Luke 17:21

⁶¹ John 15:4 ok

⁶² Romans 8:14

⁶³ John 17

⁶⁴ Ephesians 5:5 1 Corinthians 5:11 Corinthians 6:9 Galatians 5:19-21

⁶⁵ Matthew 7:16,17

⁶⁶ Acts 2:21

⁶⁷ Galatians 3:1-7

"Your righteousness must be greater than the Pharisees⁶⁸," who stand on street corners praying to be seen by men.⁶⁹ Jesus directed his disciples to beware the leaven of the Pharisees leaveneth the whole lump⁷⁰. God looks upon the hearts of men⁷¹. Dead works of religious acts without compassion or conviction⁷² are to be repented of.

II. FAITH TOWARD GOD:

Living by faith in Christ Jesus is to have been crucified with Christ that he might live in us.⁷³ Being justified by faith in Christ's atonement for our sins, we now have peace with God,⁷⁴ who gave them the Holy Ghost and purified their hearts by faith.⁷⁵ So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.⁷⁶ For we walk by faith, not by sight.⁷⁷ That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.⁷⁸ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.⁷⁹ And he that doubts is damned if he eat, because [he eateth] not of faith: for whatsoever [is] not of faith is sin.⁸⁰ Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.⁸¹

III. DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS:

Repentance and Remission of Sin: *The baptism of water is a form of unification with Christ's death and resurrection for the believer. When immersed in water, we confirm our death to ourselves, our washing by the Word of God to newness of life, and our resurrection in Christ by faith unto eternal salvation.*

Jesus told John it was the fulfillment of righteousness for John to baptize him, and when it was completed the Spirit of God descended like a dove and lit upon him; and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased."⁸² We too, having believed the gospel of salvation are **sealed** with the Holy Spirit of promise, the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.⁸³ With repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit⁸⁴ promised to Abraham's seed through faith in Jesus.⁸⁵

⁶⁸ Matthew 5:20

⁶⁹ Matthew 6:5

⁷⁰ 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

⁷¹ Proverbs 24:10-12

⁷² Luke 18:10-14 Isaiah 64:6

⁷³ Galatians 2:20

⁷⁴ Romans 5:1

⁷⁵ Acts 15:8b

⁷⁶ Romans 10:17

⁷⁷ 2 Corinthians 5:7

⁷⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:5

⁷⁹ Romans 1:17

⁸⁰ Romans 14:22, 23

⁸¹ Hebrews 11:1

⁸² Matthew 3:16, 17

⁸³ Ephesians 1:13, 14

⁸⁴ Acts 2:38

⁸⁵ Galatians 3:14

Holy Spirit Power:

Jesus said, Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . unto the uttermost part of the earth.⁸⁶ Then he ascended into heaven, and when the day of Pentecost came, his disciples were all with one accord in one place and suddenly came a sound from heaven as a rushing, mighty wind, and it filled all the house. There appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Men from all nations heard them speaking in their native languages of the mighty works of God.⁸⁷

As Peter began to speak the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with Holy Ghost.⁸⁸ While Peter told the gentiles that whoever believed in Jesus would receive forgiveness of sins, the Holy Ghost fell on them and the gift of the Holy Ghost was poured out on them. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. So said Peter they should also be baptized in water that had received the Holy Ghost.⁸⁹

Paul asked, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they answered, We have not even heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. Unto what were you baptized, then, he asked. John's Baptism they said. John gave the Baptism of Repentance for people to believe on Jesus. When they heard, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid his hands upon them the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.⁹⁰

[* Holy Spirit's manifestation of tongues is twofold:

Love will never fail, though ancient **tongues/languages of men** and knowledge shall pass away.⁹¹

Though I speak with the tongues (of men) and **angels** - ⁹² For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men but unto God: for no man understands him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.⁹³ He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifies himself.⁹⁴ He that speaks in an unknown tongue pray to interpret, for if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. Pray and sing, then, with the spirit and the understanding.⁹⁵ Pray with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watch thereunto.⁹⁶ To watch in the spirit is to pray with interpretation of the unknown tongue of angels unto God -- our prayer language. Pray without ceasing and quench not the Spirit.⁹⁷

[Resurrection Living:

Having been baptized into burial with Christ we are to walk in the newness of life having been freed from sin.⁹⁸ Jesus said that he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, with the signs of casting out devils, speaking with new tongues, taking up serpents, drinking deadly things without it hurting them, and laying hands on the sick for recovery.⁹⁹

⁸⁶ Acts 1:8

⁸⁷ Acts 1,2

⁸⁸ Acts 11:15, 16

⁸⁹ Acts 10:44-47

⁹⁰ Acts 19:2, 6

⁹¹ 1 Corinthians 13:8

⁹² 1 Corinthians 13:1

⁹³ 1 Corinthians 14:2

⁹⁴ 1 Corinthians 14:4

⁹⁵ 1 Corinthians 14: 13-15

⁹⁶ Ephesians 6:18

⁹⁷ 1 Thessalonians 17, 19

⁹⁸ Romans 6

⁹⁹ Mark 16:16-18

Baptism of Purification Fire:

So, while John baptized unto repentance . . . Jesus would follow and *baptize with the Holy Ghost* (different than being sealed¹⁰⁰ after the baptism of repentance) -- and with fire.¹⁰¹ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.¹⁰² Jesus said, I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?¹⁰³

Baptism of Death Unto Life:

Jesus said, I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished? Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division.¹⁰⁴ All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.¹⁰⁵ Paul declared, There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.¹⁰⁶

IV. LAYING ON OF HANDS:

When examining the Biblical references to Jesus and his disciple's laying their hands on others we see the hands used for ministering the touch of God's anointing to those in need, by the endowment of God within them. Jesus laid his hands on every one of the sick and diseased brought to him, and healed them.¹⁰⁷ [*Those consecrated to prayer and to ministry of the word were*] set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid [their] hands on them.¹⁰⁸ Then laid they [their] hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.¹⁰⁹ Neglect not the gift in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.¹¹⁰ They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.¹¹¹ Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.¹¹²

V. RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD:

These are Biblical record of the testimony of Jesus Christ's resurrection and the promise of His provision of resurrection of all men --

Jesus said unto her, "Thy brother shall rise again. I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"¹¹³

Jesus Christ declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁰ Ephesians 1:13,14

¹⁰¹ Matthew 3:11

¹⁰² 1 Corinthians 3:13-15

¹⁰³ Luke 12:49

¹⁰⁴ Luke 12:50, 51

¹⁰⁵ Matthew 28:18-20s

¹⁰⁶ Ephesians 4:4-6

¹⁰⁷ Luke 4:40

¹⁰⁸ Acts 6:6

¹⁰⁹ Acts 8:17

¹¹⁰ 1 Timothy 4:14

¹¹¹ Mark 16:18

¹¹² 1 Timothy 5:22

¹¹³ John 11:23, 25

¹¹⁴ Romans 1:4

Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.¹¹⁵

So worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: and have hope toward , which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.¹¹⁶

When thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind and thou shalt be blessed; for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.¹¹⁷

That I might know [Jesus] , and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.¹¹⁸

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall reign with him a thousand years.¹¹⁹

VI. ETERNAL JUDGMENT:

Regarding the issues surrounding the doctrine of eternal judgment I should only repeat, 'if any man shall add unto the words of the prophecy of this book, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; if he shall take away from them, God shall take away his part out of the book of life...' ¹²⁰

Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.¹²¹

All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemers wheresoever they blaspheme, but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of hell fire.¹²²

If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever; and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.¹²³

With all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. For this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.¹²⁴

I say unto you every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.¹²⁵

Whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say . . thou fool shall be in danger of hell fire¹²⁶

¹¹⁵ Acts 10:40, 43

¹¹⁶ Acts 24:14, 15

¹¹⁷ Luke 14:13, 14

¹¹⁸ Philippians 3:8-12

¹¹⁹ Revelations 20:4-6

¹²⁰ Revelation 22:18, 19

¹²¹ Matthew 10:28

¹²² Matthew 3:28, 29

¹²³ Revelations 14:9-11

¹²⁴ 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

¹²⁵ Matthew 12:36

¹²⁶ Matthew 5:22

Jesus said, 'Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go into away into everlasting punishment; but the righteous into life eternal.'¹²⁷

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.¹²⁸

...a Great White Throne ... the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened ... and the dead were judged¹²⁹

Verily, verily, I say unto you, "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."¹³⁰ It is [Jesus] who was ordained of God to be the Judge of the quick and dead.¹³¹

¹²⁷ Matthew 25:45-46

¹²⁸ 2 Peter 3:7

¹²⁹ Revelations 20:10-15; 21:8

¹³⁰ John 5:24-29

¹³¹ Acts 10:42

Chapter II

'LOVE: The Greatest Thing in the World'

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Love never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

And now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13

Pastor Joy's Commemoration of Henry Drummond's Address, 'LOVE: The Greatest Thing in the World'

D.L. Moody's statement that "The one great need in our Christian life is to love, more love to God and each other" was in his introduction to Henry Drummond's untouchable address of 1884 on *'The Greatest Thing In All The World'*. Through all the years of praying this study syllabus into print, my intention has always been for it to be prefaced by that address on love. But when the day came, the Holy Ghost touched my own heart to honor God's Word with my reflections on Henry Drummond's work, from my pursuit of the *The Greatest Thing in the World ~ Love*.

What is the supreme good, the noblest object of desire, the supreme gift to covet?

Faith, the object of much religious instruction as the avenue for miraculous manifestations of God's power is not what Paul proclaimed when he stated, "Now abideth faith, hope, love. The greatest of these is love."¹³² Peter said, "Above all things have fervent love among yourselves¹³³." John went further in saying, "God is love¹³⁴."

¹³² 1 Corinthians 13

¹³³ 1 Peter 1:22

¹³⁴ 1 John 4:8

Jesus responded to the Ten Commandments with its 110 associative laws when he said, *"I will show you a more simple way. If you love, you will unconsciously fulfill the whole law."* 'If you do one thing, you will do these hundred and ten things without ever thinking about them'¹³⁵. In Jesus we can give God that which is asked of us out of love rather than in a legalistic work of the flesh.¹³⁶ True love would never steal honor, things, reputation, or trust. Through its power all the law would be fulfilled, and Jesus showed us how when he laid his own will down to do His Father's will, taking nothing for himself, but giving all to others¹³⁷.

Drummond recognizes Paul's call for men to *"Press for the prize of the high call of God in Christ Jesus"*¹³⁸ as the motive behind his contrasting love to things which men highly esteem. *"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."* The power of an orator's eloquence is impotent without love backing his words. Even when scripture is taught in languages understood by men of all nations, or the holy spirit moves a man to pray out of his spirit in a heavenly language, both men and God can feel the heart of the words, and that is what moves both men and heaven more than the finest words.¹³⁹

Faith contrasted to love is found lacking because it is but the means to connect the soul with God, who is love. Hence faith, the means, is in order to love, the end. *"If I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."*

"Love is greater than charity because the whole is greater than the part. Charity is only a little bit of love, one of the innumerable avenues of love, and there may even be, and there is, a great deal of charity without love. It is a very easy thing to toss a copper to a beggar on the street; it is generally an easier thing than not to do it. Yet love is just as often in the withholding. We purchase relief from the sympathetic feelings roused by the spectacle of misery, at the copper's cost. It is too cheap--too cheap for us, and often too dear for the beggar. If we really loved him we would either do more for him, or less. Hence, *"If I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, but have not love it profiteth me nothing."*

Paul contrasts sacrifice and martyrdom, *"If I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing."* ' . . . The impression and reflection of the love of God upon (men's) character is the universal language of love . . . understood by all, will be pouring forth its unconscious eloquence (where spoken words fail). . . Take into your sphere of labor, where you also mean to lay down your life, that simple charm, and your lifework must succeed. You can take nothing greater, you need take nothing less. You may take every accomplishment, you may be braced for every sacrifice; but if you give your body to be burned, and have not love, it will profit you and the cause of Christ nothing.'

Now let's explore Henry Drummond's magnificent perceptions of Paul's analysis of love. Like light, love is a compound thing that when passed through its prism creates a spectrum of its elements. Like the colors of a rainbow, they are identified as common, everyday virtues, applicable to all men in all stations of life. Yet, it is out of the multitude of small things and ordinary virtues that the supreme thing, the *summum bonum*, is made up.

¹³⁵ Galatians 5:14

¹³⁶ Ephesians 4:17-19

¹³⁷ John 15:13

¹³⁸ Philippians 3:14

¹³⁹ 1 Corinthians 2:4,5

The nine elements, or ingredients of love are:

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| Patience | Love suffereth long. |
| Kindness | And is kind. |
| Generosity | Love envieth not. |
| Humility | Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. |
| Courtesy | Doth not behave itself unseemly. |
| Unselfishness | Seeketh not its own. |
| Good Temper | Is not provoked. |
| Guilelessness | Taketh no account of evil. |
| Sincerity | Rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth. |

"Patience, kindness, generosity, humility, courtesy, unselfishness, good temper, guilelessness, sincerity¹⁴⁰ -- these make up the supreme gift, the stature of the perfect man. You will observe that all are in relation to men, in relation to life, in relation to the known today and the near tomorrow, and not to the unknown eternity. We hear much of love to God; Christ spoke much of love to man. We make a great deal of peace with heaven; Christ made much of peace on earth. Religion is not a strange or added thing, but the inspiration of the secular life, the breathing of an eternal spirit through this temporal world. The supreme thing, in short, is not a thing at all, but the giving of a further finish to the multitudinous words and acts which make up the sum of every common day.

Patience. This is the normal attitude of love; love passive, love waiting to begin; not in a hurry; calm; ready to do its work when the summons comes, but meantime wearing the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Love suffers long; beareth all things; believeth all things; hopeth all things. For love understands, and therefore waits.

Kindness. Love active. Have you ever noticed how much of Christ's life was spent in doing kind things? He spent a great portion of his time in doing good turns to people. The one thing greater than happiness is holiness. We can greatly contribute to the happiness of those around us by being kind to them.

*"Love one another"*¹⁴¹. "The greatest thing a man can do for his heavenly Father is to be kind to some of His other children. . . How superabundantly it pays itself back -- for there is no debtor in the world so honorable, so superbly honorable, as love. *"Love never fails."*

As Browning said, "Love is energy of life. For life, with all it yields of joy or woe, and hope and fear, is just our chance o' the prize of learning love -- how love might be, hath been indeed, and is."

"Where love is, God is. He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God. God is love. Therefore love. Without distinction, without calculation, without procrastination, love. Lavish it upon the poor, where it is very easy; especially upon the rich, who often need it most; most of all upon our equals, where it is very difficult, and for whom perhaps we each do least of all. There is a great difference between trying to please and giving pleasure. Lose no chance of giving pleasure; for that is the ceaseless and anonymous triumph of a truly loving spirit. "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Kindness is not motivated for personal gain or recognition. Nor is mature love shown by spoiling the fruits of godliness through disobedience to God's word in matters of discernment. Some will not kneel to the lordship of Jesus Christ in honor of His Word, nor stand in conviction for righteousness, but will pacify with platitudes, over looking all sin for the price of peace and approval of men. Some who will carry Christ's cross

¹⁴⁰ Galatians 5:22-23

¹⁴¹ 1 John 4:7

without compromising values act in haughty pride, out of religious manipulation. The kindness of love restores a man in error in a spirit of humility lest he fall into it himself.¹⁴² When separating from unrepentant sin, it is with mourning over broken fellowship.¹⁴³ Like the parent who instructs and disciplines a child, love does not always give what someone needs or wants, but with the wisdom of God's Word we may seek His Spirit and do all that we do as unto the Lord.¹⁴⁴

Generosity. "Love envieth not." When working at the same job as others, we often see those who excel. We can respect them in a form of submission¹⁴⁵ where we compete against our own standard of quality without envying theirs, maintaining godly integrity with thankfulness for our position without coveting or envying their success. We do all as unto the Lord.

Humility. And then, after having learned all that, you have to learn this further thing, humility -- to put a seal upon your lips and forget what you have done. After you have been kind," after you have stood for righteousness and suffered persecution, "after love has stolen forth into the world and done its beautiful work, go back into the shad again and say nothing about it. Love hides even from itself. Love waives even self-satisfaction. "Love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up." Humility -- love hiding."

Courtesy. This strange ingredient is social. Love in society, love in relation to etiquette. "Love does not behave itself unseemly." Politeness has been defined as love in trifles. Courtesy is said to be love in little things. And the one secret of politeness is to love. Love cannot behave itself unseemly. The word 'gentleman' means a gentle man -- a man who does things gently, with love. That is the whole art and mystery of it. The gentle man cannot in the nature of things do an ungente, an ungentlemanly thing. The ungente soul, the inconsiderate, unsympathetic nature, cannot do anything else.'

Unselfishness. "Love seeketh not her own." Observe: seeketh not even that which is her own . . . There are times when a man may exercise even the higher right of giving up his rights. That is not hard. Yet Paul does not summon us to give up our rights. Love strikes much deeper. It would have us not seek them at all, ignore them, eliminate the personal element altogether from our calculations, to not seek things for ourselves at all. After we have sought them, bought them, won them, deserved them, we have taken the cream off them for ourselves already. Little cross then to give them up. But not to seek them, "to look every man not on his own things, but on the things of others"¹⁴⁶ -- without love that is the more difficult. "Seekest thou great things for thyself? asked the prophet; "seek them not." Why? Because there is no greatness in things. Things cannot be great. The only greatness is unselfish love. Even self-denial in itself is nothing, is almost a mistake. Only a great purpose or a mightier love can justify the waste.

Nothing is a hardship to love, and nothing is hard. I believe that Christ's yoke is easy. It is His way of living. It is an easier, happier, and more satisfying way than any other. The most obvious lesson in Christ's teaching is that there is no happiness in being served, or in having and getting anything, but only in serving and giving. "He that would be great among you," said Jesus, "let him serve"¹⁴⁷. "He that would be happy -- "It is more blessed to give than to receive"¹⁴⁸."

¹⁴² Galatians 6:1

¹⁴³ 1 Corinthians 5:2

¹⁴⁴ Colossians 3:17

¹⁴⁵ Philippians 2:3

¹⁴⁶ Philippians 2:4,5

¹⁴⁷ Mark 10:42-45

¹⁴⁸ Acts 20:35

'Good Temper. A remarkable ingredient of love -- *"love is not provoked."* Some look upon bad temper as a very harmless weakness, speaking of it as a mere infirmity of nature, a family failing, a matter of temperament, not a thing to take into very serious account in estimating a man's character. And yet here, right in the heart of this analysis of love, it finds a place; and the Bible again and again returns to condemn it as one of the most destructive elements in human nature.

The peculiarity of ill temper is that it is the vice of the virtuous. It is often the one blot on an otherwise noble character. You know men who are all but perfect, and women who would be entirely perfect, but for an easily ruffled, quick-tempered, or "touchy" disposition. This compatibility of ill temper with high moral character is one of the strangest and saddest problems of ethics. The truth is, there are two great classes of sins - sins of the body, and sins of the disposition. The Prodigal Son may be taken as a type of the first, the Elder Brother of the second.¹⁴⁹ Now, society has no doubt whatever as to which of these is the worse. Its brand falls, without a challenge, upon the Prodigal. But are we right? We have no balance to weigh one another's sins, and coarser and finer are but human words; but faults in the higher nature may be less venal than those in the lower, and to the eye of Him who is love, a sin against love may seem a hundred times more base. No form of vice, not worldliness, not greed of gold, not drunkenness itself, does more to unchristianize society than evil temper. For embittering life, for breaking up communities, for destroying the most sacred relationships, for devastating homes, for withering up men and women, for taking the bloom of childhood, in short, for sheer gratuitous misery-producing power this influence stands alone.

Look at the Elder Brother -- moral, hard working, patient, dutiful -- let him get all credit for his virtues -- look at this man, this baby, sulking outside his own father's door. *"He was angry,"* we read, *"and would not go in."* Look at the effect upon the father, upon the servants, upon the happiness of the guests. Judge of the effect upon the Prodigal -- and how many prodigals are kept out of the kingdom of God by the unlovely character of those who profess to be inside. Analyze, as a study in temper, the thunder-cloud itself as it gathers upon the Elder Brother's brow. What is it made of? ¹⁵⁰Jealousy, anger, pride, uncharity, cruelty, unrighteousness, touchiness, doggedness, sullenness -- these are the ingredients of this dark and loveless soul. In varying proportions, also, these are the ingredients of an ill temper. Judge if such sins of the disposition are not worse to live in, and for others to live with, than the sins of the body. Did Christ indeed not answer the question Himself when He said, *"I say unto you that the publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of God before you"*¹⁵¹? There is really no place in heaven for a disposition like this. A man with such a mood could only make heaven miserable for all the people in it. *"Except, therefore, such a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven"*¹⁵².

You will see then why temper is significant. It is not in what it is alone, but in what it reveals. This is why I speak of it with such unusual plainness. It is a test of love, a symptom, a revelation of an unloving nature at bottom. It is the intermittent fever which bespeaks unintermittent disease within; the occasional bubble escaping to the surface which betrays some rottenness underneath; a sample of the most hidden products of the soul dropped involuntarily when off one's guard; in a word, the lightning form of a hundred hideous and unchristian sins. A want of patience, a want of kindness, a want of generosity, a want of courtesy, a want of unselfishness, are all instantaneously symbolized in one flash of temper.

¹⁴⁹ Luke 15:11-32

¹⁵⁰ Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁵¹ Matthew 21:31,32

¹⁵² John 3:5-8

Hence it is not enough to deal with the temper. We must go to the source and change the inmost nature, and the angry humors will die away of themselves. Souls are made sweet not by taking the acid fluids out but by putting something in -- a great love, a new spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Christ, the Spirit of Christ, interpenetrating ours, sweetens, purifies, transforms all. This only can eradicate what is wrong, work a chemical change, renovate and regenerate, and rehabilitate the inner man. Will power does not change men. Time does not change men. Jesus Christ does. Therefore, *"Let that mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"*¹⁵³.

Some of us have not much time to lose. Remember, once more, that this is a matter of life or death. I cannot help speaking urgently for myself, for yourselves. *"Whoso shall offend one of these little ones, which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea"*¹⁵⁴. That is to say, it is the deliberate verdict of the Lord Jesus that it is better not to live than not to love. '

'Guilelessness and Sincerity may be dismissed almost without a word. Guilelessness is the grace for suspicious people. The possession of it is the great secret of personal influence. You will find, if you think for a moment, that the people who influence you are people who believe in you. In an atmosphere of suspicion men shrivel up; but in that atmosphere they expand, and find encouragement and educative fellowship.

It is a wonderful thing that here and there in this hard, uncharitable world there should still be left a few rare souls who think no evil. This is the great unworldliness. Love *"thinketh no evil,"* imputes no motive, sees the bright side, puts the best construction on every action. What a delightful state of mind to live in! What a stimulus and benediction even too meet with it for a day! To be trusted is to be saved. And if we try to influence or elevate others, we shall soon see that success is in proportion to their belief in them. The respect of another is the first restoration of the self-respect a man has lost; our ideal of what he is becomes to him the hope and pattern of what he may become.

"Love rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth." Sincere love honors truth above man's recognition and approval. He will rejoice in truth over what he has been taught to believe or in doctrines of men. He will seek out facts, searching for truth with a humble and unbiased mind, cherishing what he finds at any sacrifice. Sincere love is revealed in 'self-restraint which refuses to make capital out of other's faults; the charity which delights in not exposing the weakness of others, *"but covereth all things"*¹⁵⁵; honestly evaluating - - rejoicing when things are better than feared, and could not use malice of manipulation.'

Fitting the qualities of love into our character is the supreme work we pursue in life. We have so many opportunities in our daily lives to learn to love. 'Life is not a holiday, but an education. The one eternal lesson for us all is how better we can love. Practice is required to make anyone good at anything in life. Like the mind and body, if a man does not exercise his soul, he acquires no strength of character, no vigor of moral fiber, no beauty of spiritual growth. Love is not a thing of enthusiastic emotion. It is a rich, strong, manly expression of the whole round Christian character -- the Christ like nature in its fullest development. And the constituents of this great character are only to be built up by ceaseless practice.

'What was Christ doing in the carpenter's shop? Practicing. Though perfect, we read that he learned obedience,¹⁵⁶ and grew in wisdom and in favor with God. Do not quarrel, therefore, with your lot in life. Do not complain of its never-ceasing cares, its petty environment, the vexations you have to stand, the small and sordid souls you have to live and work with. Above all, do not resent temptation; do not be perplexed because it seems to thicken round you more and more, and ceases neither for effort nor for agony nor prayer. That is your practice. That is the practice which God appoints you; and it is having its work in making you patient, and

¹⁵³ 1 Corinthians 2:16

¹⁵⁴ Matthew 8:6

¹⁵⁵ 1 Peter 4:8

¹⁵⁶ Hebrews 5:8

humble, and generous, and unselfish, and kind, and courteous. Do not grudge the hand that is moulding the still too shapeless image within you. It is growing more beautiful, though you see it not; and every touch of temptation may add to its perfection. Therefore keep in the midst of life. Do not isolate yourself. Be among men and among things, and among troubles, and difficulties, and obstacles. You remember Goethe's words: "Talent develops itself in solitude; character in the stream of life." Talent develops itself in solitude -- the talent of prayer, of faith, of meditation, of seeing the unseen; character grows in the stream of the world's life. That chiefly is where men are to learn to love.'

'Though we've defined a few of love's elements, love can never be defined. As light is more than the sum of its ingredients, so is love.' Both pure forms of energy manifest in movement impacting their environment. 'By synthesis of all the colors, men can make whiteness; they cannot make light. By synthesis of all the virtues, men can make virtue; they cannot make love. How then are we to have this transcendent living whole conveyed into our souls? We brace our wills to secure it. We try to copy those who have it. We lay down rules about it. We watch. We pray. But these things alone will not bring love into our nature. Love is an effect. And only as we fulfill the right condition can we have the effect produced. Shall I tell you what the cause is?

"We love (him) because he first loved us¹⁵⁷." The cause was God's love. The effect of God's love in us is our love for him and men. His love changed our hearts, making us able to love. 'Contemplate the love of Christ and you will love. Stand before that mirror, reflect Christ's character, and you will be changed into the same image from tenderness to tenderness. There is no other way. You cannot love to order.' You can only look at the image of Christ's life, and fall in love with it, and grow into His likeness. 'As we look at His perfect character and life; at the great sacrifice as He laid down Himself, all through life, and upon the cross of Calvary; you must love him. And loving Him, you must become like Him. Love begets love. It is a process of induction. Put a piece of iron in the presence of an electrified body, and that piece of iron for a time becomes electrified. It is changed into a temporary magnet in the mere presence of a permanent magnet, and as long as you leave the two side by side, they are both magnets alike. Remain side by side with Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us, and you, too, will become a permanent magnet, a permanently attractive force; and like Him you will draw all men unto you, like Him you will be drawn unto all men. That is the inevitable effect of love. Any man who fulfills that cause must have that effect produced in him.' Religious principles are not a mystery, but divine law.

Edward Irving went to see a dying boy once, and when he entered the room he just put his hand on the sufferer's head, and said, "My boy, God loves you," and went away. The boy started from his bed, and called out to the people in the house, "God loves me! God loves me!"

One word! It changed that boy. The sense that God loved him overpowered him, melted him down, and began the creating of a new heart in him. And that is how the love of God melts down the unlovely heart in man, and begets in him the new creature, who is patient and humble and gentle and unselfish. And there is no other way to get it. There is no mystery about it. We love others, we love everybody, we love our enemies, because He first loved us.

Love, as the supreme possession in all creation has the remarkable quality of never failing. Paul reinforces the value of love's lasting quality by listing other gifts of the holy spirit, highly esteemed attributes that do not last. *"Love never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."*

"Whether there be prophecies, they shall fail". As prophecies were given in both the old and new testament, God's spirit moved men to foretell events. They all came to pass except in the event of repentance

¹⁵⁷ 1 John 4:19

and prayer -- their failure due to God's prophetic word having caused the hardness of men's hearts to turn to Him. The speaking of tongues in dialect and the utterance of men's thought all cease when mortality is laid to rest. And knowledge, of all things, both great and small, is lost with the passage of time and vanished civilizations. Even things our recent forefathers relied upon and used has been replaced with new schools of thought and inventions, though truth is never changing¹⁵⁸, and God's word will not pass away¹⁵⁹.

Prophecies, tongues and knowledge were all great things that would not last. There was something greater than them. 'What we are stretches past what we do, beyond what we possess. Many things that men denounce as sins are not sins; but they are temporary. And that is a favorite argument of the New Testament. John says of the world, not that it is wrong, but simply that it *"passeth away"*¹⁶⁰. ' There is a great deal in the world that is delightful and beautiful; that is a great deal in it that is great and engrossing; but it will not last. All that is in the world, the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life, are but for a little while. Love not the world therefore. Nothing that it contains is worth the life and consecration of an immortal soul. The immortal soul must give itself to something that is immortal. And the only immortal things are these: *"Now abideth faith, hope, love, but the greatest of these is love."*

Faith may pass into sight and hope into fruition, but as little as we know about eternity, we do know that love will last because God is love and eternal. Covet, therefore, the everlasting gift of love. Let the first great object of our lives be to be conformed to Christ, whose character is built around love.

While some folks grasp the concept of eternal peace as part of their salvation through Christ Jesus, they never fully understand, until they experience His love, that when they find their faith in salvation through Him and put it into trust, a door is opened for His love to flow through. Jesus came to offer all men *abundant life*¹⁶¹, with blessings in all things in this life and eternally. It is the fullness of such salvation that takes 'hold of the whole of a man, body, soul and spirit, and gives to each part of his nature its exercise and reward. Many of the current gospels are addressed only to a part of man's nature. They offer peace, not life; faith, not love; justification, not regeneration.' Except for God's Word, men slip back from such religion because it has never really held them, and they never pursue the fullness of what God has provided for them, that so greatly surpass the things of the world.

Do you want to live tomorrow because there is someone who loves you, that you want to be with and love back? Is there something you invest yourself in that is so satisfying you cannot wait to get to it? God's love is like that. We want to live tomorrow for the same reason we want to live forever -- love. The man who commits suicide can put up walls to shut out pain when there is no sharing of love's passion - no fellowship, communion, understanding, response in kind. But a man who has opened the door to his heart to Jesus cannot shut it to love. God's love has the compassion of understanding with long suffering, kindness, no envy, not vaunting itself, not being puffed up, not behaving in an unseemly manner, not seeking its own way, not being easily provoked, thinking not evil, rejoicing not in iniquity, but rejoicing in the truth, bearing all things, believing all things, hoping all things, enduring all things. Love never fails. Loving creates life, without it comes death. Love is life.

Jesus said, *'I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me'*¹⁶². ' To love is to live. *"This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."*¹⁶³ 'Love must be eternal. It is what God is.'

¹⁵⁸ Psalm 117:2

¹⁵⁹ Matthew 24:35

¹⁶⁰ Revelations 21:1

¹⁶¹ John 10:10

¹⁶² John 14:6

¹⁶³ John 17:3

Then, as we consider Paul's evaluation of love to be the supreme thing in all the world to desire, we understand that it is because it lasts forever and embodies life now and eternally. 'It is a thing that we are living now, not that we get when we die; that we shall have a poor chance of getting when we die unless we are living now. No worse fate can befall a man in this world than to live and grow old alone, unloving and unloved. To be lost is to live in an unregenerate condition, loveless and unloved; and to be saved is to love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth already in God. For God is love.'

'How many of you will join in reading this chapter once a week for the next three months? A man did that once and it changed his whole life. Will you do it? It is for the greatest thing in the world. You might begin by reading it every day, especially the verses which describe the perfect character.' Or better yet, memorize it! 'Get these ingredients into your life. Then everything you do is eternal. It is worth doing. It is worth giving time to.' To become more like Christ requires time in God's presence; meditating on His Word, communicating with Him in prayer, praising His glory! The principle of change requires focused attention in the area we intend to improve, and as *"Hide God's Word in our heart, that we might not sin against Him,"* ¹⁶⁴ *we build our character in His image.*

The times we feel good about, those invigorated with life were done in a spirit of love. Passing transitory self gratification, the supreme events of our life are reflected upon as having been actions of unsolicited giving -- not for the glory of men, but to have fulfilled a need unmet except in you. Above the beauty of God's creation, and the pleasures He created for men to enjoy, the lasting things I contributed to life were those coursed by the love of God moving through me to others. 'Everything else in our lives is transitory. Every other good *is visionary*. But the acts of love which no man knows about, or can ever learn of -- these never fail!'

Judgment Day¹⁶⁵ is described with Jesus sitting on his throne to judge the acts of men, dividing sheep from goats. 'The test of a man then is not, "How have I believed?" but "How have I loved?" The final test of religion at that great Day is not religiousness, but love; not what I have done, not what I have believed, not what I have achieved, but how I have discharged the common charities of life. Sins of commission in that awful indictment are not even referred to' -- *"Jesus paid for our sins and our iniquities"* ¹⁶⁶ -- What we have not done, our sins of omission, are what we will be judged for. 'It could not be otherwise. For the withholding of love is the negation of the Spirit of Christ, the proof that we never knew Him, that for us He lived in vain. It means that He suggested nothing in all our thoughts, that He inspired nothing in all our lives, that we were not once near enough to Him to be seized with the His compassion for the world. it means that -- I lived for myself, I thought for myself, For myself, and none beside -- Just as if Jesus had never lived, As if He had never died.'

The Judgment Day we all shall face will attest to our faithfulness to follow after Jesus in our sharing of food and water, sheltering and clothing the poor, and visiting the incarcerated and infirm. *"Everyone that loveth is born of God."* ¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁴ Psalm 119:11

¹⁶⁵ Matthew 25: 31-46

¹⁶⁶ Isaiah 53:5

¹⁶⁷ 1 John 4:7

CHAPTER III. DISCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT

The blessing of Abraham came on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. If we are Christ's, then we are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise¹⁶⁸. God has given the Holy Ghost to them that obey him.¹⁶⁹ To be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.¹⁷⁰ As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.¹⁷¹

Jesus said, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."¹⁷² "We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the SPIRIT OF TRUTH, and the SPIRIT OF ERROR."¹⁷³

How can two walk together lest they be agreed¹⁷⁴? We are instructed to not be unequally yoked¹⁷⁵.

Hosea's marriage to the whore¹⁷⁶ could be likened to a prophetic intercession for Christ's marriage to the carnal Christians who are still partaking of Babylon's sins.¹⁷⁷ Fill your lamps with oil.¹⁷⁸

A disciple of Jesus must be born again. He must discern the Holy Spirit and be led by it. As the wind blows he will follow¹⁷⁹. Those who draw near God with their mouths but not in their hearts, teaching and following doctrines of men¹⁸⁰ are lukewarm¹⁸¹, walking in the vanity of their minds, alienated from life with God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their hearts¹⁸² -- apathetic in their unbelief¹⁸³. These are witnessed in their lack of obedience to God¹⁸⁴ -- in a lack of love for one another¹⁸⁵.

We need to function as a body, in unity of spirit with the bond of peace in everything we do¹⁸⁶ so that we do not quench the Holy Spirit.¹⁸⁷ When Jesus said, "If you're not with me you're against me,"¹⁸⁸ he meant we'd have to choose sides. The faddish colloquial of secular humanism to 'not take sides' could only be a safe place while seeking God to discern the truth. Jesus said He sent the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth.¹⁸⁹ We know the things of God by His Spirit...the natural man doesn't receive them because they are spiritually discerned. He that is spiritual judges all things, but cannot be judged by anyone.¹⁹⁰

¹⁶⁸ Galatians 3:14, 29

¹⁶⁹ Acts 5:32

¹⁷⁰ Romans 8:6

¹⁷¹ Romans 8:14

¹⁷² John 17:21, 22

¹⁷³ 1 John 4:1-6

¹⁷⁴ Amos 3:3

¹⁷⁵ 2 Corinthians 6:14

¹⁷⁶ Hosea 1:2

¹⁷⁷ Revelations 18:4

¹⁷⁸ Matthew 25:1-4

¹⁷⁹ John 3:7,8

¹⁸⁰ Matthew 15:7-9

¹⁸¹ Revelations 3:16

¹⁸² Ephesians 4:17-19

¹⁸³ Hebrews 4:6-11

¹⁸⁴ Acts 5:32

¹⁸⁵ Romans 13:1

¹⁸⁶ Ephesians 4:3

¹⁸⁷ 1 Thessalonians 5:19-23

¹⁸⁸ Matthew 12:30

¹⁸⁹ John 16:13

¹⁹⁰ 1 Corinthians 2:14-15

If believers are not discerning the Holy Spirit they need to do a check -- is there unrepentant sin or false doctrine¹⁹¹ in them, their covering, or those that they're yoked with through relationships, or even standing in the gap for in prayer? Confess your own and another's sins.¹⁹² Renounce those ungodly bonds and repent¹⁹³.

The Bible confirms our experience -- You can still hear from God when you're bound by false doctrines, but as with a colored filter, it stains the purity of God's word. "The anointing we received of him that abides in us teaches us of all things, is truth and no lie, and as it has taught us, we abide in him, and need no man to teach us."¹⁹⁴ If we will walk by faith¹⁹⁵ in the light¹⁹⁶ -- loving our brethren with obedience to God¹⁹⁷, staying unspotted from the world¹⁹⁸, we will know the truth and the truth will set us free.¹⁹⁹

We need to leave that old man behind with all those things that will keep us out of the Kingdom of God. Unrepentant sin with its fruit of the flesh can keep us from entering into the Kingdom of God. God's Word clearly teaches that sin will prevent the unrighteous from entering into the Kingdom of God²⁰⁰ -- which is within.²⁰¹ We are not to fellowship with such a person, but rather reprove them.²⁰² Combining these scriptures, we recognize these unacceptable behaviors are: fornication, covetousness (idolatry), railing/reviling, drunkards, extortioners, adulterers, effeminate, abusers with mankind, thieves, all uncleanness, filthiness, jesting, and whoremongers.

As in the day of provocation many are dying in the wilderness -- haughty and unteachable -- perishing because of their lack of a vision²⁰³. Like silly, sin laden women ever learning, but never coming to the knowledge of the truth²⁰⁴, these are blind and deaf and naked²⁰⁵.

The plowing and the sacrifice of the wicked is hated by God²⁰⁶. What is more wicked than he who has heard the truth declared about sin, but heedlessly spills Christ's blood in unrepentant works.²⁰⁷ He who wanders out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead²⁰⁸. Many shall be offended, betraying and hating one another, and many false prophets shall arise deceiving many. Because sin abounds the love of many waxes cold, but those that endure to the end shall be saved.²⁰⁹

¹⁹¹ Jude 1

¹⁹² 1 John 5:16

¹⁹³ Acts 26:20

¹⁹⁴ 1 John 2:27; James 1:27

¹⁹⁵ 2 Corinthians 5:7

¹⁹⁶ 2 Corinthians 4:3,4

¹⁹⁷ John 14:21

¹⁹⁸ James 1:27

¹⁹⁹ John 8:32

²⁰⁰ Ephesians 5:5

1 Corinthians 5:11

1 Corinthians 6:9

Galatians 5:19-21

²⁰¹ Luke 17: 21

²⁰² Ephesians 5:11

²⁰³ Hebrews 3:8-15

Proverbs 29:18

²⁰⁴ 2 Timothy 3:6

²⁰⁵ Revelation 3:17

²⁰⁶ Proverbs 21:4

²⁰⁷ 1 Corinthians 11:12

²⁰⁸ Proverbs 21:16

²⁰⁹ Matthew 24:10-13

A man's lack of thankfulness to God and the following of his own opinions will cause God to let him have a reprobate mind with the wrath of God upon him.²¹⁰

When God's word is given as doctrine, or as words of knowledge, or wisdom,²¹¹ we should each weigh it by the scriptures and the spirit before judging it. We don't want to speak perversely about the matter, creating a breach in the spirit²¹², or worse, blaspheme the Holy Spirit²¹³. We can continue to grow in Jesus to perfection if we do not fall away after we have been enlightened, having tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and having tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. But if we do fall away, it is impossible to renew us again unto repentance; seeing we crucify to ourselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame²¹⁴.

God has give the Holy Ghost to them that obey Him.²¹⁵ With the deception of unrighteousness in those that will not receive the love of the truth for salvation, God will send them a strong delusion and they will believe the lie, being damned because they did not believe the truth and had pleasure in unrighteousness²¹⁶.

²¹⁰ Romans 1:18-25

²¹¹ 1 Corinthians 12:7, 8

²¹² Proverbs 15:4

²¹³ Mark 3:29

²¹⁴ Hebrews 6:1-6

²¹⁵ Acts 5:32

²¹⁶ 2 Thessalonians 2:11, 12

CHAPTER IV.

PRAYING AMISS: Praying in the Spirit With Interpretation

The study of prayer follows *Discerning the Holy Spirit* for a very important reason. Without any condemnation for the prayers of men to God, man's diverse will in the presence of God's will is rebellion. And rebelliousness is as the sin of witchcraft.²¹⁷

Learning Biblical principles in doctrinal form is like learning about the ocean by observing it from shore. We can only know what God's Spirit teaches us²¹⁸. Even in the presence of anointed teachers within the church²¹⁹, it is God's Spirit that opens our understanding.²²⁰ We pray our understanding of the Bible as God's will. And usually, there is a lot more to the situation and God's application of His word regarding the matter, than we ever attempt to acknowledge. But frequently, those matters are the balance of God's will in the matter we are petitioning Him for in our prayers.

When we pray without ceasing in the spirit,²²¹ it should follow that we begin to recognize a separation between soul and spirit²²², thereby differentiating between our will and God's Spirit if we pray with interpretation²²³ and understanding, as gifted by God's Spirit. Reference excerpt from *Hebrews 6:1 Bible Study of The Principles of the Doctrine of Christ* -- **Holy Spirit's manifestation of tongues is twofold:*

Love will never fail, though ancient **tongues/languages of men** and knowledge shall pass away.²²⁴

Though I speak with the tongues (of men) and **angels** -²²⁵ For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men but unto God: for no man understands him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.²²⁶ He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifies himself.²²⁷ He that speaks in an unknown tongue pray to interpret, for if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. Pray and sing, then, with the spirit and the understanding.²²⁸ Pray with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watch thereunto.²²⁹ To watch in the spirit is to pray with interpretation of the unknown tongue of angels unto God -- our prayer language. Pray without ceasing and quench not the Spirit.²³⁰

So we learn that to pray according to other men's report or our carnal ideas can turn God against us²³¹ and grieve the Holy Spirit²³² -- even creating a breach in the spirit between brethren.²³³ For we cannot discern a matter, or judge a man or situation correctly but by the Spirit of the Lord²³⁴.

²¹⁷ 1 Samuel 15:23

²¹⁸ 1 John 2:27

²¹⁹ 1 Corinthians 12:28

²²⁰ Ephesians 1:16-23

²²¹ 1 Thessalonians 5:17

²²² Hebrews 4:12

²²³ 1 Corinthians 14:14, 15

²²⁴ 1 Corinthians 13:8

²²⁵ 1 Corinthians 13:1

²²⁶ 1 Corinthians 14:2

²²⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:4

²²⁸ 1 Corinthians 14: 13-15

²²⁹ Ephesians 6:18

²³⁰ 1 Thessalonians 17, 19

²³¹ 1 Peter 3:12

²³² Ephesians 4:30

²³³ Proverbs 15:4

²³⁴ 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

The responsibility we need to grow up into²³⁵ is that even when we *pray amiss* (according to our own will and knowledge), it has impact -- and not necessarily by God's movement.²³⁶

Certainly, God answers prayers according to His will.²³⁷ And the prayers of a righteous man avail much.²³⁸ Therein lies the final outcome, that God will prevail on our behalf because of our covenant right to His blessings through the blood of Jesus.²³⁹

But we, as a maturing church, need to understand that the spirit of man exists and functions singularly, yoked through alliances with other men, and under constraint to demonic powers at times.²⁴⁰ The potential for multiplication of a man's unique spiritual power can have a devastating impact on others when we are not submitted to Christ's lordship.²⁴¹ The Dark Ages are behind us, and even nursery schools teach spiritualism today.

So, when someone full of faith starts praying God's Biblical Word according to their personal application deduced from doctrinal studies, it can impact, though not necessarily by God's movement. The yoking of men's spirits submitted to false doctrines, multiplied by false religious spirits²⁴² can beat a man so soundly that those who have prayed avow that God has moved in answering prayer by the results they observe.²⁴³ But sometimes it is they who have unleashed the gates of hell with critical judgments moved by cursings instead of blessings²⁴⁴ of mercy due the blood of Jesus.²⁴⁵ Christians of great faith, but amiss in an area of doctrine, can put a greater burden on others by their words and prayers than any but Christ Jesus could carry in us²⁴⁶.

So, let us rejoice that we who attend the throne of God in faith can expect forgiveness for our sins, and pray redemption for those who may have been afflicted by our prayers or error. Not our will, but God's be done.²⁴⁷

²³⁵ Ephesians 4:14,15

²³⁶ 2 Corinthians 7:1

²³⁷ John 15:7,8

²³⁸ James 5:16

²³⁹ Galatians 3

²⁴⁰ Proverbs 20:27

²⁴¹ 2 Thessalonians 5:23 Luke 9:55

²⁴² Jude 1

²⁴³ 2 Corinthians 6

²⁴⁴ James :10

²⁴⁵ Matthew 5:44-48

²⁴⁶ 2 Corinthians 1:8-10 John 15:5

²⁴⁷ Matthew 6:8-15

CHAPTER V. COUNTERFIT CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES

The very first world development Jesus Christ warns about is the advent of many false preachers, misleading and deceiving the many, not the few.²⁴⁸ This situation began immediately after Christ's death and resurrection. The apostle Paul warned that the spirit of iniquity was already working²⁴⁹, even as he wrote.

Jude, the younger brother of Jesus Christ, exhorted early Christians to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness".²⁵⁰

In the first century true Christians witnessed a counterfeit Christianity creeping in, deceiving many. Such religious deception has now increased in intensity until the whole world has become deceived about the true message of Christ. By the time of the end, your Bible says that Satan, the devil, "deceiveth the whole world".²⁵¹

There is no greater sign of this universal ignorance about God than the misunderstanding of who the first horseman of Revelation 6 actually represents.

It is true that the rider of the white horse represents a Christ, but it is a false Christ. It is true that the first horseman represents a gospel and a church, but it is a false gospel and a false church -- all in the name of Jesus Christ, but in truth a deception and a counterfeit. Jesus Christ says so himself²⁵², and the apostle Paul amplified Christ's words very plainly --

"I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted ye might well bear with him."²⁵³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."²⁵⁴

Your Bible identifies Satan's ministers as being professing Christians! They look like the white horse of Christ's return, but they are in truth a clever counterfeit of the true Christ.

Paul isn't warning us against obviously false religions -- such as pagan animism, Eastern occult sects, outright Satan worship, or bizarre semi-Christian cults -- but rather against a subtle counterfeit. Counterfeits, like bogus money, attempt to be as close as possible to the original, yet with subtle flaws discernable only to experts. Counterfeit Christianity is the same. It may appear biblical or Christ-like, but subtle flaws exist throughout its beliefs. The horseman riding the white horse in Rev 6 is just such a subtle counterfeit

If you will carefully compare Rev 6:1-2 with Rev 19:11-15, you will see that this first horseman is no more than a clever counterfeit Christ, one close enough to fool the majority, but not the "elect":

²⁴⁸ Matthew 24:4, 5

²⁴⁹ 2 Thessalonians 2:7

²⁵⁰ Jude 3, 4

²⁵¹ Revelation 12:9

²⁵² Matthew 24

²⁵³ 2 Corinthians 11:3-4

²⁵⁴ 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Revelation 6:1-2 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

Revelation 19:11-16 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Notice first that the returning Christ of Revelations 19 brandishes a sword out of his mouth, not a bow in his hand, as in Revelations 6. The sword is his Word the Bible. The Word of God is called, in symbol, a "two-edged sword"²⁵⁵. Christ comes reproving nations with his Word, while the counterfeit horseman of Revelations 6 comes with a bow, not the two-edged sword. Jeremiah reveals the bow as a deceiving Christ, "And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord. Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait."²⁵⁶

The time setting of Revelations 6 contrasted with Chapter 19 also proves they could not be the same Christ. In fact, the two could hardly be further apart in the time flow of the book of Revelation. The white horse is the first seal opened, the very first event in the unfolding drama of the end times. Christ's Second Coming, on the other hand, ushers in the end of the drama. It is the last portion of the last seal, just prior to the 1000-year reign of the saints of God on earth. The two events are years apart in fulfillment. They could therefore not be the same horse and rider, since they are so widely separated.

The time sequence of Matthew 24 also reveals that counterfeit Christs appear first, while the Second Coming of Christ follows many other signposts, and is the last event to unfold. The general condition of false religion appeared first after Christ's death (even before war, disease and famine in A.D. 70), and has increased for over 1900 years. But remember that Christ's prophetic words refer to both a long-term world condition and to an end-time specific event, at "the end of the age."

The long-term condition of false religion described above will culminate in the end-time fulfillment of the white horseman of Rev 6, in the person of a great False Prophet. From the midst of many conflicting nominal Christian sects and arguing religious leaders will emerge a single individual of immense personal power and magnetism, eclipsing all others. He will rise to prominence in the near future -- the exact year is unknown -- just prior to all other cataclysms at the time of the end.

²⁵⁵ Hebrews 4:12

²⁵⁶ Jeremiah 9:3, 8

Notice his description in 2 Thessalonians. "And then shall that Wicked [One] be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders..."²⁵⁷.

This powerful instrument of Satan will have unusual charisma and power! He will dazzle the world with miracles, mobilizing vast armies of formerly lukewarm professing Christians to his sinister service. This "wolf in sheep's clothing" will appear innocent, sincere, and righteous before men. Only the "elect" -- those already led by God's Spirit and obedient to his laws -- will be able to recognize the true power behind these deceitful wonders²⁵⁸.

This end-time professing Christian leader will arrogate to himself titles and honors equal to, and attempting to exceed, those of God himself! He "exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God"²⁵⁹.

After this "White Horseman" proclaims himself to be God, his believers will "go forth conquering and to conquer" in the name of their god²⁶⁰, this false prophet²⁶¹. A series of religious wars dwarfing the Crusades will scourge the earth. This leads directly into, and overlaps with, the second horseman²⁶² of the Apocalypse: WAR! If we don't recognize the deceiving church with its heresies, we will be ensnared by Satan and used against God.²⁶³

After describing the characteristics of a corrupt man that is reprobate concerning the faith, Paul exhorted Timothy to stay away from those who have a form of godliness, yet deny its very power²⁶⁴. His loving reproof to the church at Corinth still rings true for today. He spoke freely of God's grace through the trials of an apostle, and discussed the necessity of a good testimony through them all. But then, he gave the word of correction that their problems were due to the error of their own conduct. He told them to not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, but to be a separated people neither touching the unsaved or their sin so that God would receive them and be their Father²⁶⁵.

Despite these clear warnings in the Bible, God's innocent sheep continue being fleeced by counterfeit shepherds. All the more important for the sincere shepherds to not walk as Eli did. His failure to correct his own sons ended in their personal loss as well as Israel's²⁶⁶.

Recently a godly woman, who was raising her daughters to heed and obey God's word through home schooling, while she and her husband submitted as missionaries to an international Bible institute, lost her entire family. Her husband betrayed her faithfulness to Christ through false accusations, claiming she was insane. Fleeing from his threats, she lost her daughters as they sided with their dad, church, and ministerial covering. Only a handful of a very large support network stood with her. Everyone else submitted to gossip and slander, accepting that she must have been as accused -- not just a fanatic in Biblical application, but insane. "A man's foes shall be they of his own household...."²⁶⁷.

²⁵⁷ 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9

²⁵⁸ Matthew 24:24

²⁵⁹ 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4

²⁶⁰ Matthew 6:24

²⁶¹ Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14

²⁶² Revelations 6:4

²⁶³ End of adapted text: original publication not available due to church organization and resource materials destruction

²⁶⁴ 2 Timothy 3

²⁶⁵ 2 Corinthians 6:12-18

²⁶⁶ 1 Samuel 2:22

²⁶⁷ Matthew 11:36-39

An insane person's mind does not properly evaluate their environment or interact with it in an acceptable manner, resulting in inappropriate behavior. Consider the following parallel to the missionary wife's betrayal. A mother was staying in a remote wilderness area with her sons. After several days of her dogs barking with unusual agitation at something right outside the campfire light in the bushes, mountain lion tracks were found not even fifty feet from their camp trailer. But her instructions to her sons to not go away from camp after dark without a flashlight and gun, unless absolutely necessary, were met with ridicule, mocking, and scorn. Her oldest son decided that despite previous reports from the rancher, and a tracker guide's confirmations of his mother's and brother's opinion, these could not be the tracks of a lion. So, he resented and played down his mother's instructions. Then, when the dad came in late, he reflected on his own youth's church camp experiences and decided to promote faith while laughing at fear. He made a great play out of marching the fellows away from camp in the dark without a gun, while goofing off with a flashlight. In both the missionary household and at the wilderness camp, unequal yoking resulted in conflict due to a lack of spiritual discernment as well as different evaluations of the circumstances. If a lion had been right outside camp, acting like it wasn't there would not indicate a healthy evaluation of the situation. Likewise, the sincerity of a purported Christian has to be questioned if he won't heed God's directives for following in Jesus' steps.

When God's children most need scriptural guidance many are being spoiled through compromised relationships of unequal yoking, and misled by heresy. Satan comes as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour²⁶⁸. When there's only one watchman on the wall calling out, "Lion!" the foolish will have a deaf ear and a blind eye²⁶⁹ as they follow the multitude and take the broad path that leads to destruction²⁷⁰. If only one person is acknowledging God's truth, everybody else may consider their behavior inappropriate, while in fact, it is they who are in error -- as was done in the case of both mothers.

Jesus said "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us:* that the world may believe that thou hast sent me"²⁷¹."

*"We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the SPIRIT OF TRUTH, and the SPIRIT OF ERROR"*²⁷²." If believers are not discerning the Holy Spirit they need to do a check -- is there unrepentant sin or false doctrine in them, their covering or those that they're yoked with through relationships, or even prayer? We need to function as a body in unity of spirit with the bond of peace in everything we do!²⁷³

When Jesus said, "If you're not with me you're against me"²⁷⁴," he meant we'd have to choose sides. The faddish colloquialism of secular humanism to "not take sides" should only be a safe place while seeking God to discern the truth. Jesus said He sent the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth.²⁷⁵ We need to leave that old man behind²⁷⁶ with all those things that will keep us out of the Kingdom of God²⁷⁷ so that we can clearly discern the voice of God and walk as sons of God led by his Spirit²⁷⁸.

²⁶⁸ 1 Peter 5:8

²⁶⁹ Matthew 13,15; 15:14

²⁷⁰ Matthew 7:13

²⁷¹ John 17:21, 22

²⁷² 1 John 4:6

²⁷³ Ephesians 4:3

²⁷⁴ Matthew 12:30

²⁷⁵ John 16:13

²⁷⁶ Ephesians 4:22-24

²⁷⁷ 1 Corinthians 6:9

²⁷⁸ Romans 8:14

Ignorance of God's word²⁷⁹, coupled with man's tradition²⁸⁰ stumbles God's children²⁸¹. The rebellious follow the mocker and the scorner while the innocent are led astray. And they will continue walking in it if they're not reproved. Unfortunately, their wayward ways are often accepted and approved in the fellowship and guidance they receive at school, church, activities and work, as well as in a divided or compromised home.

What happened to the godly woman who lost her daughters was due in large to the deceiving influence of the families' church and ministerial staff backing the errant husband. He was submitted to the deceiving doctrines of a false Christ with a bow at the head of his church, not the Christ of the two edged sword. The outcome is that his daughters have rejected their mother, turned on the truth she trained them in, to be approved by their peers at a compromised church and in the public schools, the leading polluter of the worldly church.

-- 1949 World Book Encyclopedia: Religion --

"Many scholars have been inclined to define religion as belief in gods or supernatural beings. But this by no means includes all the religions, because religion has often meant a way of living rather than a way of believing. And there have been many who have denied or been indifferent to any kind of god. Most scholars today think that religions have been concerned first of all with the values which were believed to give the most satisfying life.

Every religion of history is made up of these three elements. The ideal consists of the values which the group tries to attain. The cult, which is the practices and ceremonies by which these values are thought to be won. The theology, or world view which connects this search for values with the forces of the universe around man."

-- The Humanist Manifesto I states --

"Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created. Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values."

Humanism is a religion, and our government has been unifying the churches through the public schools. For several generations the government has been indoctrinating the youth by means of humanistic education²⁸².

Today's church is being impacted with the same strategy that the brilliant military commander, Emperor Constantine used when he established mandatory state church attendance in ancient Rome in 313 A.D, thereby creating internal peace without much bloodshed. The church became a political organization very different in doctrine than the persecuted church of the first three centuries. This paganization of Christ's Church unified world religions through the integration of different beliefs, dates, deities and practices. Thus the deeply rooted, worldwide following of the Babylonian Mystery Religion, the Roman Catholic Church. That faith that Jude exhorted the early church to contend for²⁸³ became polluted beyond recognition with only a remnant diligently searching Scriptures and trying to faithfully serve their living God!²⁸⁴

²⁷⁹ Proverbs 22:3

²⁸⁰ Colossians 2:8

²⁸¹ Romans 14:13

²⁸² 'Educating for the New World Order', by B.K. Eakman, Halycon House

²⁸³ Jude 3

²⁸⁴ Revelations 12:11

In today's world the tightening government authority over child rearing in a depressed economy has forced many Christians to place their children under false doctrinal instruction in government schools in the U.S.A. The results are reminiscent of the breaking of the Arcadians and most native American Indians, through the capturing of their youth. After several generations we now have a worldly church espousing doctrines within a humanistic format. They're screaming cult at anyone teaching outside of it, and are persecuting Jesus' more serious disciples. Jesus said "Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also²⁸⁵."

The Humanist Manifesto I states, "Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created. Humanism asserts that the nature of the universe depicted by modern science makes unacceptable any supernatural or cosmic guarantees of human values."

This preaching of man's supremacy and denial of the existence of a divine creator, send many on a futile quest for personal divinity and power that often lands them in the quagmire of occultism even found in today's church. Pantheism or mystical humanism believes that God is in everything. The ancient pagans equated nature with God, and worshiped the creation rather than the Creator²⁸⁶. This, too, is the sin of today's religious philosophers who equate man with God or believe that God is in everything, and it is observed in every aspect of the public schools.

When the Word of God is built on a deeply ingrained foundation of humanistic values you find an integration of false doctrines polluting the church. Because God's truth was known to man from the beginning, there are some similarities between pagan teachings and those of Christianity. But the scriptures which define true faith in God are God's truth; all other religious philosophies -- even those that go by the name of "Christian" -- are perversions of God's truth. And reconciliation or integration of Humanism and Christianity is not the religion of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Except for salvation, most of the Christian Life is not taught in the *Worldly Church*, and the church needs to repent of accepting the teaching of vain philosophies and support the families' training of their children. God's blessing comes in not scorning His Word. Our very lives should be our worship!

When Emperor Constantine established a mandatory state church in 313 A.D., the political organization unified world religions through a paganizing integration of beliefs, dates, deities and practices. The One World Order - U.N. - American Public Schools - U.S. Government reflect the tenets of humanism in applied morals, values, and practices, and deityship of self. A One World Religion of practice enforced by governments will require all men to have a mark in their right hand or forehead to buy and sell, and to be killed if they do not worship the image of the beast.²⁸⁷ When Jesus told his disciples that the temple would be rebuilt in three days, he was referring to his body as the temple of God.²⁸⁸ As living stones in God's church²⁸⁹, we are each a temple for God's Holy Spirit²⁹⁰, with the blood of Jesus upon the altar of our heart.²⁹¹ If we put man upon the altar of our hearts, instead of Jesus, have we placed the abomination of desolations on God's altar?²⁹²

²⁸⁵ John 15:20

²⁸⁶ Romans 1:25

²⁸⁷ Revelation 13:14-18

²⁸⁸ John 2:19-21

²⁸⁹ 1 Peter 2:5

²⁹⁰ 1 Corinthians 6:19

²⁹¹ Hebrews 13:9, 10

²⁹² Mark 13:14; Matthew 24:15

*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty*²⁹³. When Achan rebelled against God, taking the accursed thing, God's wrath fell on all the congregation and he did not perish alone²⁹⁴.

Through compromise and carelessness so many of our boats have drifted, and the current is quickly taking us toward a rocky jetty that is battered with breaking waves. If we don't moor to the rock of Jesus Christ in the storm upon us we will be tossed too and fro like the waves; and being double minded we shall have none of what we ask God for²⁹⁵, but be dashed to pieces.

A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished²⁹⁶. Such was the recent case of one young man who refused to quiet his bold proclamation of the gospel without prudence. Due to the lack of maturity in his walk with God, he cast his pearls before swine²⁹⁷ and went past the first precepts of Christ²⁹⁸ in the presence of the unlearned²⁹⁹ and unsaved³⁰⁰. He gave scriptural responses under medical evaluation and brought the gifts of the spirit out from the "holy of holies" within himself. Out of the context of the spirit realm, and without evidence to the listeners, he was judged without their understanding and incarcerated for it³⁰¹. But every religious statement cited in the psychiatric evaluations had a Biblical-Scriptural confirmation for this young man's doctrine, convictions and actions.

When visited at the county mental hospital where he'd been court ordered for evaluation and treatment, visitors were requested to not speak to him of religious matters or bring him Bible or praise music cassette tapes because of his "mental illness". When asked by the psychiatrist why he was there, he gave the truthful response, "Because I wouldn't stop preaching." It was his family, Christian friends, and church that put him there. This young man, who had grown up on the streets, would not bow to the social protocol of the medical arena. His Christian support group wasn't ministering in deliverance or healings³⁰², and he got a court judgment against him that required mandatory medical treatment and evaluation for a year. The prescribed heavy drug treatment has severe side effects, and has created a flat personality. The medical profession does not allow for the body being healed of their evaluation, so the sentence is life time medical treatment or incarceration for further evidence that he's unable to care for himself, as would be exhibited by the same unacceptable religious behavior.

Consider the diagnosis from this Christian young man's perspective.

The bi-polar/manic depressive with hyper religiosity diagnosis was based on his oftentimes fanatical, exaggerated emotions -- a zeal and style common to the evangelical, charismatic Christian preachers. This included his continual reference to religious matters and fanatical praying all the time. Whereas the Bible exhorts men to "Pray without ceasing"³⁰³. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."³⁰⁴

²⁹³ 2 Corinthians 6:17, 18

²⁹⁴ Joshua 22:19, 20

²⁹⁵ James 1:8

²⁹⁶ Proverbs 27:12

²⁹⁷ Matthew 7:6

²⁹⁸ Hebrews 6:1

²⁹⁹ 1 Corinthians 14:16

³⁰⁰ 1 Corinthians 1:21

³⁰¹ 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

³⁰² Mark 16:15-20

³⁰³ Ephesians 6:18

³⁰⁴ Joshua 1:8

Describe the manifestation of God's anointing, especially following baptism in the Holy Spirit. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day."³⁰⁵ This young man's laughing at the devil and praising the Lord in the face of demonic oppression, and then experiencing the Holy Spirit's touch, and lifting of the battle was cited as manic/depressive episodes. That place of focused prayer and praise that breaks yokes as we push through the battle, bringing forth the high spiritual place of victory was categorically diagnosed as acting like he was high -- symptomatic of a bi-polar episode.

His behavior diagnosed as grandiose was the medical opinion of his faith that he had supernatural powers to cast out demons, call forth healing or pray by the leading of the Holy Spirit on unrelated subjects by words of knowledge.

His scriptural confessions of faith over various circumstances was classified and interpreted as disorganized thinking, not having his facts right, therefore not based in reality. His faith to be released from incarceration and to be healed was acknowledged as impaired judgment with unrealistic expectations. His limited insight as to why he was there, and his lack of acceptance for his mental illness were labeled psychotic behavior.

There was no place in that system for recognition of his religious convictions. He was required to compromise his religious beliefs of prayer, worship, freedom of speech, and health by faith in God³⁰⁶ in order to be released. His Treatment Plan and Discharge Criteria stated that he needed to be treated until his thinking straightened out and he recognized reality. What constitutes brain washing and behavioral control? The *HUMANIST RELIGION*, with its tenets of psychiatry and sociology³⁰⁷ does not comprehend a spiritual relationship with a living God, or know Jesus Christ's Holy Spirit in truth.

"Thou endure hardship, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."³⁰⁸ "Take the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand".³⁰⁹

³⁰⁵ Acts 2:5, 15; Galatians 3:14

³⁰⁶ *'Healing In Zion'* by Carol Balizet

³⁰⁷ Single Mindedness in *'Accounted All Joy'*

³⁰⁸ 2 Timothy 2:3, 4

³⁰⁹ Ephesians 6:13

CHAPTER VI.

SINGLE MINDEDNESS ~ *Humanist Doctrines of 'Psychology' and 'Sociology' ~*

Many of today's disciples of Christ are Babylonian³¹⁰ born and raised in an adulterous church confused by Humanism.

Their double mindedness³¹¹ hinders their walk in Christ to such an extent that they frequently short-circuit over value conflicts, creating resolutions through works of the flesh³¹² from a worldly value system³¹³. The carnal mind that is unwashed by the word of God³¹⁴ and not conformed to Christ Jesus³¹⁵ has a difficult time discerning God's voice and choosing His way with acceptance and thanksgiving. It is frequently confused, seeking external confirmation and guidance, having not found peace³¹⁶ through the Word of God, .

Rebellion against God under false teachings³¹⁷ cannot reconcile a double value system. It bears the fruit of rebellion through false accusations against the true New Testament Church. From their lack of knowledge, those who persecute Christ's disciples will perish, having deceived even themselves³¹⁸. When life's storms hit disciples of Christ *trying to act* like Jesus, they fall apart because they could not transform themselves, and He wasn't given the place in their lives to do it for them³¹⁹.

*A fool has no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.*³²⁰ Yet, without the mind of Christ³²¹, in an effort to help themselves, God's sheep are led astray³²² through the Humanist doctrines of 'psychology' and 'sociology'. Humanism seeks to please man (self and society) rather than God. Thus, it cannot please God. *"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ "*³²³.

When Nebuchadnezzar refused to give God glory, he went crazy and grazed the fields like a wild animal³²⁴. The judgment that those who do not love God's Word will be sent a delusion to cause them to believe a lie,³²⁵ a reprobate mind given to those who would rather serve the creature than the creator,³²⁶ and they're revealed as leading those bound by sin astray³²⁷. Though Jesus took the curse of madness,³²⁸ the Counterfeit Church promotes an unsound mind. *"He who is friends with the world is at enmity with God"*³²⁹.

The humanist tenant of 'psychology' teaches examination of one's heart and is a falsely called science that attributes one's behavior solely to the individual's experiences or health. Whereas God's Word reveals that

³¹⁰ Revelation 18

³¹¹ James 1:8

³¹² Galatians 5:19-21

³¹³ 1 John 2:15-17 1 Corinthians 1:19-31

³¹⁴ Ephesians 5:25-27

³¹⁵ Romans 12:2

³¹⁶ James 3:17-18

³¹⁷ 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

³¹⁸ Jude

³¹⁹ Matthew &:21-27

³²⁰ Proverbs 18:2

³²¹ 1 Corinthians 2:10-16

³²² Isaiah 53:6

³²³ Galatians 1:10

³²⁴ Daniel 4

³²⁵ 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

³²⁶ Romans 1:28

³²⁷ 2 Timothy 3:6

³²⁸ Deuteronomy 28:28 Galatians 3

³²⁹ James 4:4

when we die to ourselves and are born again³³⁰ in Christ Jesus, He will come to live in us³³¹ and conform us to His likeness³³² with the washing of His Word³³³, and the regeneration of the Holy Spirit³³⁴. As we learn to cast down vain imaginations that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God and bring our minds into captivity to Christ Jesus³³⁵, we choose to stand in faith for the Holy Spirit's comfort and soundness of mind. With the fruits of the spirit³³⁶ and God's Covenant blessings³³⁷ working in us we are able to walk in the fullness of Jesus³³⁸. This is acquired through our position of faith in God³³⁹, as well as His mercy³⁴⁰. Jesus *still lives* to give healing and deliverance³⁴¹.

The blind guides teaching false doctrines of man³⁴² need to repent, or in the end they would do better with a millstone about their neck for having offended God's little ones³⁴³.

Crediting Babylon's antichrist government, there is a form of applied 'psychology' that operates through divining familiar spirits and in wizardry.

*"With their sorceries all nations were deceived."*³⁴⁴ Dictionary definition of sorcery/witchcraft: "Words spoken over a person or thing, spiritually creating by supernatural power; enchantment with drugs". Definition of spell/incantation: Words spoken over something or someone by a person using spiritual authority to send accompanying demons to manifest a particular thing in or on them.

[Is currency Babylon's talisman that precedes the taking of the mark in the hand and forehead when we serve mammon by pursuing it and using it? Definition talisman: Object that has a demonic anointing on it, with demons attached to it so that it serves as a spiritual door for demonic powers accompanying it.]

God's law, written on our hearts³⁴⁵, taught us what sin is³⁴⁶. The spirit of life through Christ Jesus freed us from that law³⁴⁷ unto salvation through faith in the atonement Jesus completed for us³⁴⁸. Not bound by the law, wisdom remains to depart from *diviners - wizards - familiar spirits*³⁴⁹.

The wisdom of God is to not desire to be with them who have familiar spirits lest we be defiled by them³⁵⁰. We should heed the instruction of safety from transference of spirits. We're not to partake of evil, but to reprove it³⁵¹, departing from evil men³⁵² and separating ourselves from worldliness³⁵³.

³³⁰ John 3:3

³³¹ 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

³³² Romans 8:29,30

³³³ Ephesians 5:25-27

³³⁴ Titus 3:5

³³⁵ 2 Corinthians 10:5

³³⁶ Galatians 5:22,23

³³⁷ Hebrews 4:8-12

³³⁸ Ephesians 4:15

³³⁹ Romans 5:1-5

³⁴⁰ James 5:11

³⁴¹ Luke 4:18, 19

³⁴² Matthew 23:15

³⁴³ Matthew 18:6

³⁴⁴ Revelation 18:23

³⁴⁵ Hebrews 8:8-12

³⁴⁶ Galatians 3

³⁴⁷ Romans 8:2

³⁴⁸ Acts 26:18

³⁴⁹ Deuteronomy 18:9-13

³⁵⁰ Leviticus 19:31

³⁵¹ Ephesians 5:11

³⁵² 3 John 11 Proverbs 4:14,15

Disciples of Christ separate because of the world's persecution ³⁵⁴. Today's world is established on socially acceptable standards and enforced through the guidelines of 'sociology'. 'Psychology' has become 'sociology's' weapon, used somewhat like "social engineering", disallowing any kind of honest application from a true sociological study of cultural - religious values or anthropological evaluation and application. As with the twisting of legalities, sanity has been a crucible for social control. *The rich bring the poor before the judge where they are judges of evil thoughts and blaspheme Jesus' name*³⁵⁵.

While today's entire social standard teaches and requires babble -- idle chatter and the revealing of all that is personal to complete strangers. Today's children are reproved as rebellious if they don't answer everything asked by strangers in public positions of authority. The world's perversity is bearing its fruits, and its citizens are confounded. We no longer see *gate keepers*³⁵⁶ -- TV, radio, public education all practice free license in verbal intercourse creating a perverted and worldly mind. The applied Biblical practice of good, old fashioned discretion is actually illegal in some circumstances.

If you choose to evaluate your situation for yourself instead of complying with the peer pressure of today's social standard you're titled a controller (because you won't allow others to control you), or a religious cultist if you live your religious beliefs. But *perfect love casts out all fear*.³⁵⁷

³⁵³ John 17:14-16 1 John 2:15-17

³⁵⁴ 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

³⁵⁵ James 2:4-9

³⁵⁶ Proverbs 17:19

³⁵⁷ 1 John 4:18

CHAPTER VII.
MARRIAGE COVENANT ~ *Building on Jesus Instead of the World* ~

"Whoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon the house; and it fell, and great was the fall of it." ³⁵⁸

"Except the Lord build the house; they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." ³⁵⁹

If the head of the household will not cleave to God and lead his household in righteousness, God will not be silenced or stopped from performing His word. Not saying that he cannot overshadow the character of men, but like water, he can also go around a boulder placed in the way of righteousness. Woe to that man who rails against his household for seeking God's way. As Nabal tried to stop Abigail from serving David, he died of a hard heart, and her savior and lord rewarded her faithfulness, taking her as his bride.³⁶⁰ Nor is this to say that God will not work through and use the unbelieving husband who is content to live with his wife. But let faith have its perfect work,³⁶¹ and use your marriage to help you develop the nature of Christ.³⁶²

Marriage Covenant: Since ancient time, the covenant was understood to be an agreement between two parties to back each other up with everything they had.

The governmental filing of marriage, divorce, birth and death has been served by the *Worldly Church* in legalistic fervor as though it was a god. While God's word directs us to obey the authority He has placed over us³⁶³, Jesus said, "If you love me you'll obey my word from the Father which sent me".³⁶⁴ Upon persecution for the gospel's sake Peter and the other apostles replied, "We ought to obey God rather than men"³⁶⁵.

When the laws that men have bound us by put us in a position for evil to manipulate us and force us to sin we, like Moses' parents may consider each possible course of action with all their ramifications.

When a man's body is violated through legislated medical application, numbered for monitoring and taxing, edicted in burial, categorized and legislated in financial, family and personal choices through marital and divorce laws, we recognize our position as government property.

But, when a church judges a marriage as valid in God's eyes only when it is recorded with the government, and the government doesn't even require that it be filed, you know that the church is in bondage to a legalistic spirit.

As a whole, the *Worldly Church* has been submitted to a governmental covering rather than God³⁶⁶. When the Lord is sought for deliverance, his people need to recall the day of provocation, and

³⁵⁸ Matthew 7:24, 25

³⁵⁹ Psalm 127:1

³⁶⁰ 1 Samuel 25

³⁶¹ James 1:4

³⁶² 1 Peter 3:8-12

³⁶³ 1 Peter 2:13-17

³⁶⁴ John 14:15,21,24

³⁶⁵ Acts 5:29

³⁶⁶ Counterfeit Christian Doctrines in '*Accounted All Joy*'

without hardness of heart enter into His promised land by faith.³⁶⁷ Jesus, the same yesterday and today and forever,³⁶⁸ came to set the captives free.³⁶⁹ We need to stop partaking of Babylon's sins lest we receive her plagues³⁷⁰.

As we endeavor to live humbly,³⁷¹ not exalting our gate³⁷² or name,³⁷³ let's prayerfully consider what a high income life style's taxes are supporting. And if you're not legally required to participate in worldly organizations, you can eliminate the spiritual battlefield of wickedness in those high places³⁷⁴ by not submitting to their covering.

The three-fold marriage covenant between husband, wife, and God puts God at the head. He will enter in and put asunder works of the flesh like neither marriage partner can as they endeavor to walk in the spirit. Nor should they go against His word by vowing to keep the marriage themselves, which puts it under condemnation.³⁷⁵ They simply attest to do all that they can to honor their union and ask God's blessing.

The hypocrisy of marital pride in the church is a stench in God's face. The self-righteous Pharisees who have stood in hard hearted "faithfulness" to their marriage contracts have been a Hagar work of the flesh, producing an Ishmael fruit -- warring and rebellious children within the Church who are worse than their parents³⁷⁶. Having emulated their hypocrisies or judged their parent's hypocrisy amiss they reap divorce.³⁷⁷ A house divided against itself will not stand.³⁷⁸

³⁶⁷ Hebrews 3:15

³⁶⁸ Hebrews 13:8

³⁶⁹ Luke 4:18

³⁷⁰ Revelations 18:4

³⁷¹ Proverbs 21:4 1 Peter 5:5,6

³⁷² Proverbs 17:19

³⁷³ Proverbs 28:37

³⁷⁴ Ephesians 6:10-18

³⁷⁵ James 5:12

³⁷⁶ Matthew 23:15

³⁷⁷ Matthew 7:1-5

Submitting to God in Marriage in 'Accounted All Joy'

³⁷⁸ Mark 3:25

CHAPTER VIII.
SUBMITTING TO GOD IN MARRIAGE ~*The Family as Part of the Church Structure*

OBEYING GOD

Loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength is every Christians most important pursuit³⁷⁹. God wants us to draw close to him and seek after the Kingdom of God³⁸⁰ like a child would³⁸¹. Jesus even said not to call any man on earth our Father, but only our Father who is in heaven³⁸². The way we should express our love for God is in obedience to His commandments³⁸³. If we abide in Jesus we do not sin³⁸⁴, but rather reprove it³⁸⁵ by our actions and with His Word. When we are sanctified and washed³⁸⁶ by the truth³⁸⁷ of God's Word, He makes us able to walk the narrow way that leads to life³⁸⁸, because we have been conformed to Christ's image³⁸⁹ with a renewed mind³⁹⁰.

The Bible forewarns of a great falling away in these end days³⁹¹ with many being led astray³⁹². For many saints, this temptation is in their own home. Let's consider how to count it God's blessing³⁹³ and stand in Christ³⁹⁴ under God's wing³⁹⁵ when faced with the crushing oppression of spiritually defiling railings, relationship breaking slander, and even betrayal³⁹⁶ in one's own family.

During the Viet Nam War in the 1970's, Lt. Calley ordered his men to slaughter an unarmed village. He mistakenly mistook an innocent Viet Nam village for the Viet Cong enemy. Prosecuted by the U. S. Supreme Court, Calley's men were found guilty for their own actions *even though they were obeying their commanding officer's orders*. Like them, everyone will stand singularly alone before God on judgment day³⁹⁷, responsible for their own actions regardless of other's counsel, teaching, or example. We each need to be careful that we are not the "Religious Rights" of today laying heavy burdens upon men that we, ourselves are not willing to help remove³⁹⁸.

The oppression and affliction suffered by men, women, and children that God has heard the cries of³⁹⁹, added to the prayers and fastings⁴⁰⁰ for God's church to break free from ungodly submission's undertow of death and destruction precedes this study. Jesus gave us the spirit of the law to bring life, freeing us from the letter of the law that brings death⁴⁰¹.

³⁷⁹ Luke 10:27
³⁸⁰ Matthew 6:23
³⁸¹ Mark 10:15
³⁸² Matthew 23:9
³⁸³ John 14:10-15
³⁸⁴ 1 John 3:6
³⁸⁵ Ephesians 5:11
³⁸⁶ 1 Corinthians 6:11
³⁸⁷ John 17:19
³⁸⁸ Matthew 7:14
³⁸⁹ Romans 8:29
³⁹⁰ Ephesians 4:23
³⁹¹ 2 Thessalonians 2:3
³⁹² 2 Peter 3:17
³⁹³ Matthew 5
³⁹⁴ Ephesians 6:13
Romans 13:12-14
³⁹⁵ Psalm 91
³⁹⁶ Luke 12:51-53
³⁹⁷ Acts 10:42
³⁹⁸ Matthew 23:4
³⁹⁹ Psalm 10:17,18
⁴⁰⁰ Isaiah 58
⁴⁰¹ 2 Corinthians 3:6

The Bible does not bind anyone's heart, soul, spirit or body in submission to ungodly headship⁴⁰², but much of the New Testament Church uses Bible scripture amiss, as a whip to drive the broken soul onward with a dead marriage for their cross. Let it be said that this is the Lord's subject, and neither mine nor others, though the devil and cunning men have certainly undetermined the church with false doctrines of men's teachings for selfish gain⁴⁰³.

Jesus' words in the entirety of Matthew Chapter 23 should be calling many misled, though well intending spouses, parents, pastors, teachers, counselors and friends to repentance. He said that, "*Unless your righteousness shall exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no way enter into the kingdom of heaven.*"⁴⁰⁴ In their pride, greed and desire to be honored by men they almost completely missed God!⁴⁰⁵

⁴⁰⁶When Jesus taught his disciples about the character and condition of those who would receive God's blessings, he pointed out that it came with persecutions; that their light was to be shared and not hidden, and that if their value as compared to saltiness was lost, they'd be worthless. Great in the Kingdom of Heaven, he instructed, are those who keep and teach God's commandments.

Then Jesus examined the underlying principles of two laws for examples of righteous conduct, to exemplify God's character. He who gives sun to the good and evil, and rain to the just and unjust wants his children to be like Him and love their enemies.

The first law examining the principle of righteousness was to not kill. Dealing with anger and making peace would be godly fruit. He said, if you've looked on a woman with lust you have already committed adultery with her in your heart. You are to give her a writing of divorce if you put her away, but I say it is you who have *caused* both she and who she marries to break your marriage union, and commit adultery. Just commit yourself with a simple yes or no, and do not swear, because you are not able to perform it. As children of God, do not resist evil, give more than asked even in a lawsuit, lend when asked, do more than asked of you, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you so that you may be the children of your heavenly Father.

Jesus was not binding men to the law again. He applied the righteousness of God's love in forgiveness and giving to two laws pertaining to men's passion. He did not require action, but fulfillment. Action obeys the letter of the law, yet kills. Fulfillment is by the spirit of the law, written on our hearts to give life. In context, the law reveals the fruit of sin in men's hearts that needs to be repented of.

When the Pharisees asked Jesus if it was lawful for a man to put away his wife they knew that Moses had instructed men to write a bill of divorcement if they put away their wife. Jesus told them it was for the hardness of their heart that they were allowed, but from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. What therefore God hath yoked together, let not man put asunder. Then when asked again about the matter by his disciples he answered, Whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another committeth adultery against her, and if a woman put away her husband and be married to another, she commits adultery⁴⁰⁷.

⁴⁰² Ephesians 5:1-18

⁴⁰³ Titus 1:10,11

⁴⁰⁴ Matthew 5:20

⁴⁰⁵ Matthew 23

⁴⁰⁶ Matthew 5:1-19

⁴⁰⁷ Mark 10:10-12

CHRIST'S HEADSHIP

Let us review the following scriptures pertaining to the wife's submission to her husband as a matter of church order:

Colossians 3 summarized: (1) Church, don't sin. (2) Behave in a godly manner. (3) Jesus can be equally formed in everyone. (4) Walk in forgiveness, love, peace, thankfulness and wisdom. (5) Church order incorporates the family with the wife submitted to her own husband, the husband loving his wife without bitterness, children submitted to their parents, and servants to their masters. (5) Do everything in the name of the Lord as unto him, because He is no respecter of persons and everyone will receive the recompense of their actions.

Col 3:18 emphasized: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, appropriately in Christ.

Ephesians 5 summarized: Paul has reached a place in his letter to the church at Ephesus where he is giving a final exhortation on church order. (1) Do not do certain things, (2) Don't be deceived, you've come out of ungodly conduct. (3) Don't get involved in it again, or even speak of those things, but correct them instead. (4) Use wisdom and stay thankful. (5) Church order: Everybody submit to one another. Wives submit to your own husbands; as Christ is at the head of the church, he is at your head. Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church, giving himself for it to sanctify and wash it with the Word.

Eph 5:21-33 emphasized: Submit yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, (*in the same manner that you would*) the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore, **THE SAME AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT UNTO CHRIST**, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. **THIS IS A GREAT MYSTERY: BUT I SPEAK CONCERNING CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.** Nevertheless, let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

In drawing a parallel to church order, we'll examine a man who has been released from jail on probation. When hired, he is told (1) Don't lie or steal, (2) You've left those illegal acts behind, having paid for your errors, don't get involved if you see it happening, but correct it. (3) Use wisdom and keep a thankful attitude for this job. (4) Submit yourself to the other employees (obviously not neglecting your responsibilities, but helpful, courteous and deferring to their needs when it's possible to rearrange yours; bearing one another's burdens and not competing for personal gain.) (5) Submit to your supervisor, respecting his authority and position as he is accountable to the owner of the business.

If the supervisor is leading the employees away from company policy by his instructions and example, you'd have a parallel to a husband rebelling against God. The supervisor's disobedience to company policy would be like disregarding the Bible's teachings, and leading of the Holy Spirit.⁴⁰⁸ This analogy of the supervisor-employee relationship describes the basic mechanics of church relationship, precluding unity between Christ and the church, and husband and wife through the Holy Spirit.⁴⁰⁹

The movement of the Holy Spirit in the husband's help mate, as his co-heir in Christ is a reflection of the Mystery of Christ and his church. In Christ they are one.⁴¹⁰ The correct position for a husband's headship over his wife is submitted to Jesus by the Holy Spirit, which will bear witness in her. As husband and wife function in unity, they should confirm their position in Jesus to each other, serving as checks and balances. This marriage unit should bring stabilizing unity to the church.

⁴⁰⁸ Galatians 3:11,28

⁴⁰⁹ John 17:21

⁴¹⁰ Galatians 3:28

Regarding submission, let it be noted that the same word is used in Paul's instruction to the church for correct relationship between church members as is used for the wife toward her husband. Paul instructs the church, "*In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*"⁴¹¹ This is obviously a directive to be used in godly wisdom. Its fruit will be peaceable and easily entreated, not creating confusion.⁴¹² As the sons of God we are to be led by His Spirit.⁴¹³

GODLY MARITAL SUBMISSION

It is important that the marriage be entered into with the wife revering and honoring her husband.⁴¹⁴ Sarah's respect for Abraham was so great she called him master⁴¹⁵, obeying him even in his error, suffering the reproach of his correction.⁴¹⁶ The woman was made of⁴¹⁷ and for the man⁴¹⁸ -- God's perfect completion for man's needs in the flesh⁴¹⁹ and spiritual realm⁴²⁰; the two becoming one. The four recognized New Testament Church unions bring forth different types of children, those born of blood, the will of the flesh, the will of man, or the will of God.⁴²¹ Through Christ, by the Holy Spirit, God's selection of a spouse is available⁴²². God's plan is for the husband and wife to be equally yoked together⁴²³ in Jesus⁴²⁴. Without it many have fallen because the union did not meet the needs of either⁴²⁵. By creation the wife is the weaker part.⁴²⁶ Her husband was created to spiritually and physically cover, protect and provide for her⁴²⁷. As Jesus does for the church, the husband lays his life down for his wife, and she yields to his headship⁴²⁸.

They are not to defraud one another, but having power over each other's body, abstain from marriage union only for fasting, lest they be tempted.⁴²⁹ The importance of being equally yoked is clearly understood by Paul's remark to the Church of Corinth that 'he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit - God forbid that the members of Christ be joined to a harlot'.⁴³⁰

The mystery of Christ and His church⁴³¹ is the unity of spirit Jesus prayed for his church to have with he, the Father, and the Holy Spirit⁴³². Within such a marriage the sons of God⁴³³ can enjoy their liberty in Christ

⁴¹¹ Philippians 2:3b,4

⁴¹² James 3:16-18

⁴¹³ Romans 8:14

⁴¹⁴ Ephesians 5:33

⁴¹⁵ 1 Peter 3:6

⁴¹⁶ Genesis 12:16-20

⁴¹⁷ Genesis 1:18-25

⁴¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 11:8,9

⁴¹⁹ Matthew 19:5,6

⁴²⁰ John 17:21

⁴²¹ John 1:13

⁴²² Proverbs 3:5-8

⁴²³ 2 Corinthians 6:14

⁴²⁴ 1 Corinthians 7:39

⁴²⁵ Philippians 2:2-5

Amos 3:3

⁴²⁶ 1 Peter 3:7

⁴²⁷ 1 Corinthians 11:3-16

⁴²⁸ Ephesians 5:21-33

⁴²⁹ 1 Corinthians 7:3-5

⁴³⁰ 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

⁴³¹ Ephesians 5:32

⁴³² John 17:21

with the wife's fulfillment⁴³⁴ in her husband, his co-heir's⁴³⁵ sincere submission⁴³⁶ and reverence⁴³⁷ for his headship over her as part of the New Testament Church! The husband's anointing is available in Jesus to minister to his wife, as God's perfect will. Such a godly yoking is not put asunder when scriptural principles are adhered to⁴³⁸. But ungodly yoking can so burden a marriage that quarrels with unforgiveness create havoc and destruction reaping man's attempts to obey the letter of the law as Abram did with Hagar⁴³⁹. Such works of the flesh frequently culminate in the filing of divorce papers as nothing more than legal conscription of a long dead work.

With Jesus at the head of a marriage, love can surpass differences and circumstances because it covers a multitude of sin.⁴⁴⁰ And the wife's position to submit to her husband in everything is exactly what the church is to do with Jesus.⁴⁴¹ *Everything* we do is to be as unto the Lord in bearing godly fruit.⁴⁴² A gentle and meek spirit does not oppose the will of God.⁴⁴³ As we see with Esther, it is God who gives grace, favor, and placement for his purpose.⁴⁴⁴ And as we see in Mary, we are to be thankful to God in circumstances beyond our comprehension, because He is God.⁴⁴⁵

In Jesus we are new creatures, old things having passed away⁴⁴⁶. Because of this cleansing, regardless of what our lives may have been, through Jesus we can enter into all the promises⁴⁴⁷ and expectations for God's perfect plan in marriage. It is unveiled throughout scripture with its fullness compared to the mystery of Christ and the church, as unification in God's Spirit. When Jesus became every curse for those who accept God's gift of salvation by faith,⁴⁴⁸ he provided for us to live with the blessings of God.⁴⁴⁹ Jesus bore the curses of Eve that women have been bound by since the fall of disobedience. He bought women's redemption from being unfulfilled in, and ruled over by their husband. In Jesus, the wife can now be fulfilled in her husband as his wo-man, a co-heir in Christ⁴⁵⁰. Now submission is not a yoke of bondage. Instead of having to rule over his wife, the marriage in Christ can, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, in the spirit of unity with the bond of peace,⁴⁵¹ be as attuned to one another as Jesus, Father God & Holy Spirit are; never saying or doing anything outside Father's will.⁴⁵²

⁴³³ Romans 8:14-17
Discerning the Holy Spirit in "*Accounted all Joy*"

⁴³⁴ Genesis 3:16
Galatians 3:13

⁴³⁵ Romans 8:14-17

⁴³⁶ Ephesians 6:24

⁴³⁷ Ephesians 5:33

⁴³⁸ Matthew 19:4-6

⁴³⁹ Genesis 15-17

⁴⁴⁰ 1 Peter 4:8

⁴⁴¹ Ephesians 5:24

⁴⁴² Ephesians 4:3

⁴⁴³ Psalm 25:9

⁴⁴⁴ Esther 2:15

⁴⁴⁵ Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁴⁶ 2 Corinthians 5:17

⁴⁴⁷ Galatians 3

⁴⁴⁸ Galatians 3:13

⁴⁴⁹ Galatians 3:9

⁴⁵⁰ Galatians 3:28;

⁴⁵¹ Ephesians 4:3

⁴⁵² John 17

REBELLIOUS HEADSHIP

Like Adam's apple⁴⁵³, the husband's headship requires teaching his wife. His covering of his wife should provide sanctification and washing with the word of God⁴⁵⁴ -- protecting her from deceptions. She should not bear the burden of responsibility⁴⁵⁵. Mercifully, in the New Testament Church the Holy Spirit ministers between them, as they are co-heirs in Christ. Though, as with Adam and Eve, if the husband fails to adequately instruct his wife it will be not only to her detriment, but to his and their children as well. From the beginning of creation the necessity for a husband to fulfill his God given authority over his wife has been clearly established.

The Bible does not say whether Adam instructed his wife daily of their responsibility to obey God and not partake of the fruit of the tree of good and evil. We do know that she was deceived by satan and not only disobeyed God but led her husband to sin as well. God cursed their disobedience for not obeying his instruction by causing Eve sorrow in birthing, and conceptions to be multiplied; for her to desire her husband (the opposite of fulfillment in him); and for him to rule over her. On Adam fell the curse of the ground with sorrow in eating of it⁴⁵⁶.

Unfortunately, or should we even go so far as to say disastrously, many have taken the wife's submission *to her husband as unto the Lord* out of its context to church order and have replaced his position for a god. The directive then becomes that the wife would do anything the husband says regardless of his position in Christ in the matter. In many instances this completely negates the preceding instructions of both Colossians 3:17 and Ephesians 5:1-20 in godly conduct for a church submitted to Jesus, preceding the wife's accountability to her husband.

So, we see that the referenced scriptures do not mean that the wife should forsake all of God's instruction in righteousness to join her husband in the error of his sins, when his leading is contrary to God's Spirit and Word as though he were another god. That would put him in the position of an idol which should be cast down.⁴⁵⁷ We must serve the creator, not the creature.⁴⁵⁸ When Saphira followed Annanias in sin, she died also.⁴⁵⁹ Do not follow after evil, he who does good is of God; but he that does evil has not seen God.⁴⁶⁰ A wife's submission to her husband *AS UNTO THE LORD* must be in agreement with the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. Each must choose to follow after Christ, conducting themselves as the Bible instructs.

When submission⁴⁶¹ is not practiced the weaker part becomes a burden on the stronger church members as they endeavor to protect and build up that weak member⁴⁶².

If the husband is not a disciple of Christ⁴⁶³ and is leading his family astray, the wife must seek the Lord, and maintain a position of faith for him while praying through. She should not malign the dad to the children, but raise a godly standard of righteousness in conduct and with instruction of the Word -- never compromising on sin. The believing parent may through word and action sanctify their children⁴⁶⁴ with God as their Father⁴⁶⁵.

⁴⁵³ Genesis 2:15-17

⁴⁵⁴ Ephesians 5:23-29

⁴⁵⁵ 1 Timothy 2:11-14

⁴⁵⁶ Genesis 3

⁴⁵⁷ Galatians 6:7, 8

⁴⁵⁸ Romans 1:21-25

⁴⁵⁹ Acts 5:9, 10

⁴⁶⁰ 3 John 11

⁴⁶¹ Ephesians 5:21-33

⁴⁶² 1 Thessalonians 5:11-14

⁴⁶³ John 15:8

⁴⁶⁴ 1 Corinthians 7:14

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." ⁴⁶⁶

"You cannot call good what God has called evil." ⁴⁶⁷

"To him who knows to do good and does it not, to him it is sin." ⁴⁶⁸

"Don't partake of other men's sins." ⁴⁶⁹

"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." ⁴⁷⁰

"Hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." ⁴⁷¹

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments." ⁴⁷²

"May God sanctify you wholly, that your whole spirit, soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." ⁴⁷³

To honor God, in reverence of her husband, a wife will remit his sins ⁴⁷⁴, maintain a character of love⁴⁷⁵, and continue to meditate on and speak God's Word day and night⁴⁷⁶. She may win her husband to Christ through your godly conversation ⁴⁷⁷. It is better to suffer persecution for doing right!⁴⁷⁸ When considering how to walk out our dispensation and call, we must individually hear from God by His Holy Spirit. But His Word clearly establishes godliness. And whatever the husband's battle is that prevents his ministering to her needs, recall the price Bath Sheba and David paid⁴⁷⁹. Wisdom and discretion guards those who might see our needs from overstepping their bounds.

Even in marriage or other family relationships we cannot partake of others unrighteousness or darkness.⁴⁸⁰ In submission to Jesus, who is the head of the church and which the family should be in submission to, we are to be separate from the world, touching not the unclean thing.⁴⁸¹ We are to be circumspect in conduct, "cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."⁴⁸²

Considering companionship, conduct, and entertainment we should not use our household members as an excuse to walk in the way of evil men.⁴⁸³ We need to hate the things of this world,⁴⁸⁴ and while continuing as keepers of the home⁴⁸⁵, seek after a simpler lifestyle that will show forth fruits denying the lust of the flesh, the

⁴⁶⁵ Matthew 3:9

⁴⁶⁶ Matthew 22:37-39

⁴⁶⁷ 1 Samuel 15:20

⁴⁶⁸ James 4:17

⁴⁶⁹ 1 Timothy 5:22

⁴⁷⁰ Ephesians 5:11

⁴⁷¹ 1 Peter 2:21,22

⁴⁷² 1 John 5:2

⁴⁷³ 1 Thessalonians 5:23

⁴⁷⁴ John 20:23

⁴⁷⁵ 1 Corinthians 13

⁴⁷⁶ Joshua 1:8

⁴⁷⁷ 1 Peter 3:1,2

⁴⁷⁸ 1 Peter 3:16,17

⁴⁷⁹ 2 Samuel 12

⁴⁸⁰ 2 Corinthians 6:14, 7:1

⁴⁸¹ Ephesians 5:15

⁴⁸² 2 Corinthians 6:14, 7:1

⁴⁸³ Proverbs 3:7

⁴⁸⁴ 1 John 2:15

⁴⁸⁵ Titus 2:4,5

lust of the eye, and the pride of life⁴⁸⁶. If we are in this world, but not of it⁴⁸⁷, we will guard our hearts⁴⁸⁸ against the covetousness of window shopping, TV defilements, bars, pornography, gambling, sports, and the idolatries of entertainment that lead many astray. Let your choice always be to praise God, especially in music!⁴⁸⁹ Do not gossip or be a busy-body, but witness in action and with the Word.⁴⁹⁰ As chaste keepers of the home, buying a field with the fruit of her labors, the wife's nucleus is the home⁴⁹¹. Do not walk away from the responsibility to *not follow* filthy lucre⁴⁹², *to not be conformed* to this world⁴⁹³, and to *not be greedy* of gain⁴⁹⁴, but rather, endure the trial which God has made a way through⁴⁹⁵.

Turn from worldly traditions and philosophies of men⁴⁹⁶. Do not take offense when you're persecuted for righteousness and suffer wrong for Christ's sake⁴⁹⁷. Be modest and chaste in appearance⁴⁹⁸. Depart from competitions⁴⁹⁹ with the world's adulteries and don't entice men to lust after you for a husband's selfish ego that would vie for other men's envy.⁵⁰⁰ Let love be without dissimulation, abhor evil and cling to what is good.⁵⁰¹

Dealing with the issues surrounding identification and peaceable resolution of abusive conflict is addressed in the *Godly Manners versus Traditions of Men* section of this study.

In all matters, because we have the Holy Spirit, we can, under the law of liberty, follow the Holy Spirit's leading in action and timing between sanctification and worldliness instead of using the letter of the law to kill. Like Sarah, in adverse circumstances we cannot agree with scripturally, but feel compelled to submit to, we must trust in God's faithfulness to use all things to His glory⁵⁰², applying the blood of Jesus to sin.

As Sarai called Abram Lord⁵⁰³, loving him as her own flesh, with discretion she neither complained or fell with astonishment of heart⁵⁰⁴ when he fearfully gave her to Pharaoh. And God blessed Abram by restoring Sarai to him undefiled.⁵⁰⁵

When Abraham, who loved God, was tempted through Sarah to fulfill what God had told him He would do for him, he missed God.⁵⁰⁶ Just as the Pharisee's pride in their own ability to obey God in the hypocrisy of their heart and actions do.⁵⁰⁷

⁴⁸⁶ Proverbs 31

⁴⁸⁷ John 17:15,16

⁴⁸⁸ Proverbs 4:23

⁴⁸⁹ Psalm 34:1

⁴⁹⁰ 1 Timothy 5:13

⁴⁹¹ Proverbs 31

⁴⁹² 1 Timothy 3:1-11

⁴⁹³ Romans 12:2

⁴⁹⁴ Proverbs 15:27

⁴⁹⁵ Thessalonians 1:4

⁴⁹⁶ Colossians 2:8

⁴⁹⁷ John 15:20-16:1

⁴⁹⁸ 1 Timothy 2:9

⁴⁹⁹ Philippians 2:3

⁵⁰⁰ 1 John 2:15-17

⁵⁰¹ Romans 12:9

⁵⁰² Romans 8:28

⁵⁰³ 1 Peter 3:6

⁵⁰⁴ Deuteronomy 28:15,28

⁵⁰⁵ Genesis 12:16-20

⁵⁰⁶ Genesis 15-17

⁵⁰⁷ Matthew 5:20

Jesus took the curse of a man's wife lying with another man,⁵⁰⁸ but sin breaks the hedge⁵⁰⁹ and without the true repentance of a broken spirit and contrite heart⁵¹⁰ for putting their marriage asunder through loveless acts, restoration, deliverance and healing can be hindered.⁵¹¹

When genuine respect for the spouse fades to only respect for their marital position and a decision to obey God, eros departs and agape love carries the marital cross. Jesus will form himself when given place, and healing with deliverance and fulfillment can come.⁵¹² God has a good plan to fulfill our needs.⁵¹³ When we walk out His plan, following His instructions, His operation is more fully released in our lives.

DIVORCE

If you're married to a believer -- one who has accepted the gift of salvation through the atonement of Jesus Christ, but is hindered in discipleship, or unrepentant toward Christ's lordship, the two of you should be able to *fast and pray* regarding knowledge, application and obedience to God's words. If, however, you're unequally yoked in Christ, then God has created a special avenue. It is clearly laid out that if a brother offends you there are specific steps for reconciliation⁵¹⁴. If neither your church or your spouse acknowledge God's order in this area, then you might petition the Lord to carry it out in written form, and seek God's will concerning separation from a disorderly brother.⁵¹⁵

If there is manipulation with maligning or slander, and railing that is not repented of⁵¹⁶ truce breaking and covenant are being broken⁵¹⁷. The process of putting a marriage asunder and breaking what God joined together is the process preceding the signing and filing of a government form.⁵¹⁸ Before examining New Testament scripture relating to marriage and divorce let's draw a parallel between the New Testament Church and military service. An officer instructing his men of their duties and privileges in a joint military campaign between the different branches of the service might say, "Your benefits will be issued by the military branch you're serving in." It would be understood by the servicemen present at the time of his statement that:

- (1) A disciplinary action might revoke those benefits.
- (2) They could only belong to one military branch at a time.
- (3) After completing a term of service in one branch of the military, they could opt to enlist in another.
- (4) Reenlisting in another military branch might not eliminate their benefits from their previous tour of duty, allowing them to receive benefits from two branches of the military.

The statement that, "You will be issued benefits by the military branch you're serving in," was given *in context to a point of address* and did not exempt benefits paid from a different branch for previous service, or a disciplinary cancellation of benefits. The familiar extenuating factors were not necessary to cite to the listening servicemen, as they did not pertain to the subject of discussion.

⁵⁰⁸ Deuteronomy 28:15,30

Galatians 3:13

⁵⁰⁹ Ecclesiastes 10:8

⁵¹⁰ Psalm 51:17

⁵¹¹ Acts 28:26,27

⁵¹² Luke 4:18, 19

⁵¹³ John 10:10

⁵¹⁴ Matthew 18:15-17-22

⁵¹⁵ 2 Thessalonians 3:6-16

⁵¹⁶ 2 Timothy 3:5

⁵¹⁷ 2 Timothy 3:3

⁵¹⁸ Matthew 19:6

In the same manner, neither were the legal clauses of exception mentioned in Paul's instruction on the works of the law to "them that know the law" in the church at Rome . He stated, "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then, if while her husband liveth she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ..."⁵¹⁹

Paul's reference to "*a woman's husband*" indicates she was not divorced, as required by the law for remarriage. Nor would she have been free to remarry unless her husband had given her a certificate of divorce⁵²⁰. Under the law adultery was punishable by death⁵²¹. But the adulteress [*moichalas*] description refers to the broken marriage covenant's one flesh union not being sanctioned by the law. Though we keep all the law, should we offend in one point we are guilty of all⁵²². And this is the dispensation of grace we have through Christ Jesus, that by faith in his atonement of our sins we are free from the penalty each sin incurred⁵²³. Yet we must know sin in order to abstain⁵²⁴.

Jesus established that the humble suffer wrong doing for righteousness sake, and as sons of God, should do good to the evil. His teaching about the hypocrisy of man's heart stated, as an example, that looking with lust on a woman, or marrying a divorcee, except for cases of sexual immorality, is as adultery [*moichaomai*] -- the act of breaking the marriage covenant one flesh union. In lawful cases of divorce and remarriage resulting from sexual immorality [*porneia*], the covenant one flesh marriage union has already been broken. But a marriage following a divorce where the one flesh marriage union has not yet been broken is consummated in an act of adultery toward the previous union. The husband who gave his wife divorce papers on grounds other than sexual immorality is accounted by Jesus as responsible for causing she and her new husband to commit adultery⁵²⁵. This reference to adultery as a singular act does not classify it as a continuing state.

Subsequent marriages were recognized by God, and not corrected as perpetual adultery by Jesus with the Samaritan woman who had five husbands prior to the man she was living with⁵²⁶, or by Paul's instruction to the Church of Corinth to remain in the marriage they were in when they converted⁵²⁷. Except for Christ's reminder to the Jews that sexual immorality was the exceptive legal clause for divorce, Paul included divorce with remarriage for believer's abandoned by an unbelieving spouse. Though they could more freely serve God outside marriage, they have not sinned if they remarry in the Lord ⁵²⁸. We are otherwise reminded by Jesus' exhortation that divorce was allowed because of the hardness of men's hearts⁵²⁹, to be like Father in loving those who spitefully use us⁵³⁰, and in Paul's directive for the husband and wife to stay together and not divorce⁵³¹. Without the mystery of Christ in the marriage union, without the love of God in our hearts, without Jesus as Lord of our lives marriage cannot be as fulfilling. If the unbelieving are content to live with you, or leave, God

⁵¹⁹ Romans 7:2-4a

⁵²⁰ Deuteronomy 24:1-4

⁵²¹ Deuteronomy 22:22

⁵²² James 2:10

⁵²³ Acts 13:39

⁵²⁴ Galatians 3:24

Romans 6:11-18

⁵²⁵ Matthew 5:28-32

⁵²⁶ John 4:17-18

⁵²⁷ 1 Corinthians 7:24

⁵²⁸ 1 Corinthians 7:15,27,28,39

⁵²⁹ Mark 10:4,5

⁵³⁰ Matthew 5:44,45

⁵³¹ 1 Corinthians 7:10-16

has called us to peace⁵³². If you were deceived and ensnared by an evil man who has a reprobate mind, you cannot take pleasure in or approve his wicked ways, or they will ensnare you⁵³³.

Sin from a hardened heart can bring destruction without remorse⁵³⁴. Through Jesus, God can intervene for peace and renewal, and we express our faith and love for Him by obeying His Word.

Regardless of life's circumstances, God's promise for His blessings to overtake us⁵³⁵ is available in the depth of his wisdom⁵³⁶ with a clearer understanding of discipleship, lordship⁵³⁷, testing the spirits⁵³⁸, and recognizing that devils believe there is one God also⁵³⁹.

Though God hates divorce⁵⁴⁰, He had the Israelites in captivity leave their unbelieving wives and children as they departed for Jerusalem⁵⁴¹. And God divorced the northern tribes of Israel for their being adulterous toward Him⁵⁴². He is a compassionate God of mercy. David and his men ate consecrated bread in the tabernacle⁵⁴³, and Jesus healed on the Sabbath⁵⁴⁴ though by law it was ordained a day of complete rest⁵⁴⁵. Because we have the Holy Spirit to lead us⁵⁴⁶ we can individually establish God's will in our lives with his love leading us. Divorce is caused by sin, but is not sin when permitted by God.

The principles and references introduced in *Discerning the Holy Spirit* of this study address issues that prevent reconciliation between believers. Forgiveness and reconciliation do not always go together⁵⁴⁷, though forgiveness is the desired prerequisite before any other steps are taken⁵⁴⁸. Knowing that Jesus prayed and paid His apology for the offender's unrepentant sin is to see Christ crucified for all parties, and to know it was a perfect work. In the anguish of unresolved conflicts bitterness can open doors for critical 'religious' judgments that will spiritually flail the unlearned, broken and bound. An intercessory fasted prayer of mercy⁵⁴⁹ often needs to precede correction.

Even when divorce is confirmed by scripture and the Holy Spirit⁵⁵⁰, or when a believer has refused the church's correction of repentance and is treated as an unbeliever⁵⁵¹, our testimony for Jesus is to do everything to the glory of God⁵⁵². In court cases we should be willing to be cheated rather than bring reproach on Jesus⁵⁵³. Divorce is invariably accompanied by the persecution of those who lack understanding of God's Word on the

⁵³² 1 Corinthians 7:13-16

⁵³³ Ephesians 4:3

⁵³⁴ Hebrews 3:12,13

⁵³⁵ Deuteronomy 28:2

⁵³⁶ Romans 11:33

⁵³⁷ Ephesians 1:13-23

⁵³⁸ 1 John 4:1

⁵³⁹ James 2:19

⁵⁴⁰ Malachi 2:16

⁵⁴¹ Ezra 10:3

⁵⁴² Jeremiah 3:8

⁵⁴³ 1 Samuel 21:1-6

⁵⁴⁴ Matthew 12:9-13

⁵⁴⁵ Exodus 20:8-11; 35:1-3

⁵⁴⁶ John 17

⁵⁴⁷ 2 Timothy 2:23-26, Titus 3:9-11

⁵⁴⁸ Matthew 18:21-25

⁵⁴⁹ Matthew 5:7

⁵⁵⁰ 1 Peter 1:22

⁵⁵¹ Matthew 18:15-21

⁵⁵² 1 Corinthians 10:31

⁵⁵³ 1 Corinthians 6:1-8

matter⁵⁵⁴. It is much easier to maintain your peace and joy in Christ if you have prepared for critical judgments and rejection of who you are in Christ after a divorce through Bible study on the related issues. A scriptural foundation is mandatory for a serious disciple of Christ to stand in the post divorce religious storms that wipe out so many⁵⁵⁵. Then, having done all stand⁵⁵⁶, for in due time you shall reap.⁵⁵⁷

"[Woe to them] which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!"⁵⁵⁸

If you have to release your full faith for a departing husband, family and friends to follow after God, keep in mind that God gave us all a free will.⁵⁵⁹ And know that *"God binds up the brokenhearted, proclaims liberty to the captives . . . gives beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness . . . that He might be glorified."*⁵⁶⁰

If you lose family or lands, God will replace one hundred fold in this life with persecutions.⁵⁶¹

Affections for family should be as hate compared to our love for God!⁵⁶²

God's people perish for lack of a vision.⁵⁶³ Here lies hope. When marriage is broken intact, or put asunder -- and *then* departed from, our lives need not derail. Let God be glorified!⁵⁶⁴ For those who have struggled valiantly in a Hagar marriage of dead work's, legalistically obeying scripture from their carnal mind, crying, "I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, surely judgment lies with the Lord, and my labor as unto God."⁵⁶⁵ Surrender your heart to God and ask Him to cleanse it for you⁵⁶⁶. He wants to take the circumstances of your marriage and be glorified in its midst⁵⁶⁷.

⁵⁵⁴ Matthew 5:10

⁵⁵⁵ Matthew 7:24-27

⁵⁵⁶ Ephesians 6:13

⁵⁵⁷ Galatians 6:9

⁵⁵⁸ Isaiah 5:23

⁵⁵⁹ Luke 12:51-53

⁵⁶⁰ Isaiah 61:1-4

⁵⁶¹ Mark 10:29,30

⁵⁶² Luke 14:26

⁵⁶³ Proverbs 29:18

⁵⁶⁴ Psalm 50:23

⁵⁶⁵ Isaiah 49:4

⁵⁶⁶ Psalm 51:10

⁵⁶⁷ 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12

IX. THE STORMS ~ Obey God ~

The law was the school teacher exposing sin.⁵⁶⁸ But under the law of liberty⁵⁶⁹ we are no longer bond slaves⁵⁷⁰ to it, saved by faith rather than works of righteousness⁵⁷¹. Jesus said if we loved him we would obey him.⁵⁷² God has called for His law to be written on our hearts⁵⁷³. We are to be conformed to Christ's image⁵⁷⁴.

Jesus said I am the way, truth, and life -- no man cometh unto the Father but by me⁵⁷⁵. God's Word is a lamp to our feet, a light to our path⁵⁷⁶. Walking as He walked will bring life⁵⁷⁷. He is merciful, but when we obey his directives it looses Him into situations⁵⁷⁸.

Even though the husband and wife are one, they're individual stones in the church. When steps for offence are obeyed,⁵⁷⁹ even if it's just following these biblically ordained steps for reconciliation through letter writing; or if your steps end in shaking the dust⁵⁸⁰ of an adulterous church that wants to blink at sin, from your feet -- the steps of obedience loose God's power into a household or church.⁵⁸¹ While it can be very difficult for everyone involved it is fruitful to walk in righteousness. To suffer the cross in humble obedience is required of Jesus' disciples⁵⁸².

Standing in righteousness to deal with offenses by trying to make peace with the offender is a matter of wisdom⁵⁸³. When the rains, floods and winds come upon a household, they need to be prepared and do what God has said⁵⁸⁴. When church, family, friends and community begin to twist and turn from the truth, dividing a family⁵⁸⁵ -- through actions and words of gossip and slander⁵⁸⁶, they should be confronted⁵⁸⁷ as the Holy Spirit leads and one finds peace⁵⁸⁸ and strength to do so. If ignored, the storm damages a household, and if not repaired in time the fall will be great⁵⁸⁹. Mercy is where we look back, and confessing the blood of Jesus,⁵⁹⁰ forgive. Repentance is where we change our way into His⁵⁹¹ and continue in Christ's footsteps.

⁵⁶⁸ Galatians 3:24
⁵⁶⁹ Galatians 8:1-17
⁵⁷⁰ Galatians 4:23-31
⁵⁷¹ Romans 4:13
⁵⁷² John 14:15
⁵⁷³ Hebrews 8:10
⁵⁷⁴ Romans 8:29
⁵⁷⁵ John 14:6
⁵⁷⁶ Psalm 119:105
⁵⁷⁷ 2 Corinthians 6:16
⁵⁷⁸ Romans 6:16
⁵⁷⁹ Matthew 18:15-17, 22
⁵⁸⁰ Mark 6:11
⁵⁸¹ Psalm 37:23,24
⁵⁸² Matthew 10:38
⁵⁸³ Proverbs 2:7
⁵⁸⁴ Matthew 7:24, 25
⁵⁸⁵ Luke 12:51-53
⁵⁸⁶ Psalm 101:5
⁵⁸⁷ Galatians 6:1; Proverbs 9:7
⁵⁸⁸ James 3:17, 18
⁵⁸⁹ Matthew 7:26, 27
⁵⁹⁰ Psalm 23:6
⁵⁹¹ 2 Peter 3:9
* Numbers 30 -- Broken Vows

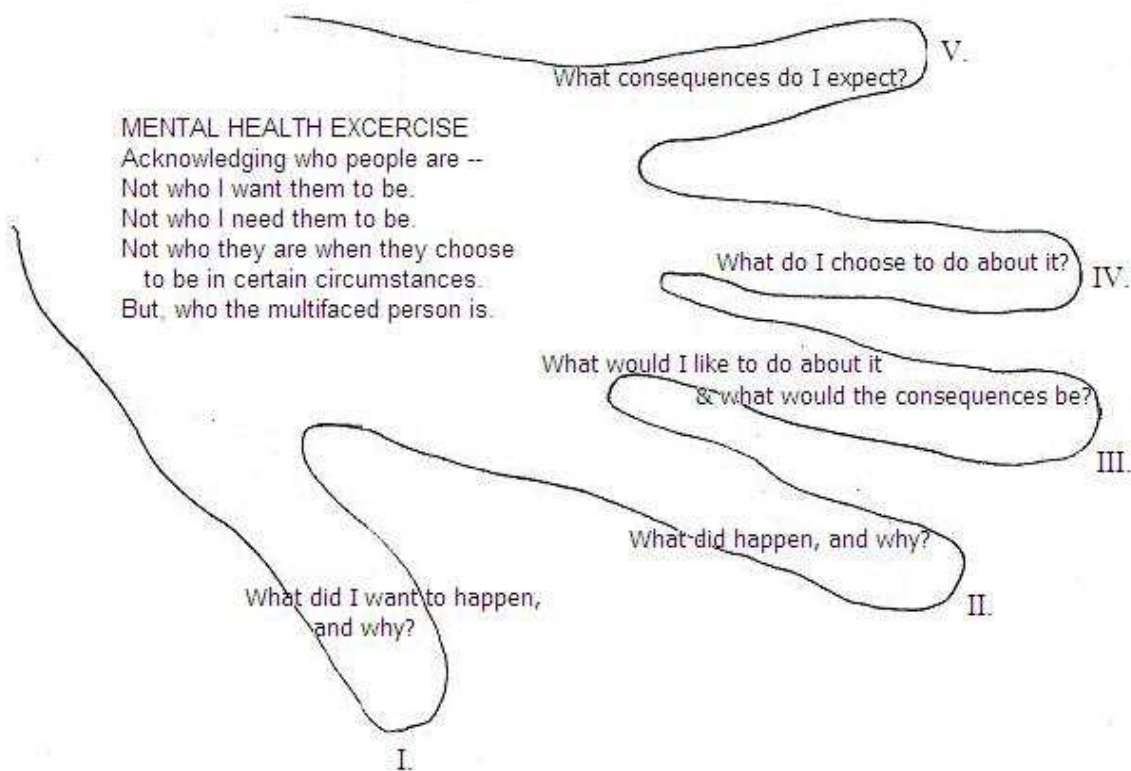
CHAPTER X. GODLY MANNERS versus TRADITIONS OF MEN



Identification of the Differences Between and the Consequences Of
Functioning in Traditional Worldly Roles versus Using Godly Manners ~
[This section is also available in booklet form.]

PERSONAL HOUSECLEANING:

- I. If you keep up with it, It won't get out of hand, and you won't need help.
BUT -
- II. If it gets out of hand, reach for a hand. Everybody needs one - sometimes.
Everybody can give one - sometimes.



STAY FOCUSED

- ALONE - TOGETHER - WITH A MEDIATOR -

| ISSUES | NEEDS | GOALS | EXPECT | RESULTS |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Medical | | | | |
| Diet | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Lifestyle:Social | | | | |
| Family Relationships | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Dealing with Differences | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Legal Issues | | | | |

SEE . . .

What could making someone else feel badly about themselves accomplish?

Does the person doing it feel badly about himself?

What do they Say & do that lets you SEE their self identity and self evaluation?

What do they say & do that lets you SEE their identification
and evaluation of you?

You can choose What YOU Will do.

RESTORING & BUILDING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS WITH IDENTIFICATION OF:

Rude Manners & Offense Responses with Alternative Responses to Effect Change:

Successful relationships established on *Jesus - the Rock*, instead of on traditional roles using worldly communication styles, stand through life's storms⁵⁹². The many forms of non-supportive, disrespectful, and unloving communications all around us are subtle and socially acceptable. As we study the precepts of Christ we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds⁵⁹³ and not conformed to the world⁵⁹⁴. The love, light, joy, peace, and other fruit⁵⁹⁵ in Christian living will separate us from the unkindness and degradations of worldly lives and relationships, as we stand through life's storms on the rock of Christ. It is the pure purpose of this article to be able to establish immediate change in painful relationships. Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted, free the bruised, and set the captives free⁵⁹⁶. The Kingdom of God is at hand now⁵⁹⁷. Today we can render the enemy of our souls powerless, and take down the strongholds of man's traditions in worldly and dysfunctional relationships of emotional abuse. We are overcomers in Christ Jesus⁵⁹⁸!

⁵⁹² Matthew 7:24-27

⁵⁹³ Ephesians 4:23

⁵⁹⁴ Romans 12:2

⁵⁹⁵ Galatians 5:22,23

⁵⁹⁶ Luke 4:18,19

⁵⁹⁷ Mark 1:15

⁵⁹⁸ 1 John 5:4,5

CHAPTER XI. TRADITIONAL CONTROLLING COMMUNICATION STYLES
Rude Manners and Offensive Styles:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>NAME CALLING:</u> | Sarcasm, exaggerated endearment, voice tone, belittling nick names, insulting labels. |
| <u>TRIVILIZATION:</u> | Disregarding time, talent or effort someone made in a needed & selfless act of service - cutting them down. |
| <u>PUT DOWN HUMOR:</u> | Embarrass & humiliate someone. Then deflect responsibility for giving offense by accusing the offended person of their lack of a sense of humor. |
| <u>FAULT FINDING:</u> | Undermines someone's accomplishment. Victim's efforts aren't good enough. Offender isn't <i>really</i> trying to help someone improve, They're degrading their actions. |
| <u>INTIMIDATION:</u> | Threaten to get own way, punish, 'bully', show disapproval, verbal snaps, looks, shout, throw things. |
| <u>ISOLATE</u> | Punish, pout. Withholding information, set spoken and unspoken rules to isolate abused individual from others or activities. Put down by exclusion. <i>*Looks like</i> - But different than a place for keeping peace when treated unacceptably. |
| <u>CREATE DISTANCE:</u> | Don't participate in mutual problem solving, don't share grief or joy, don't talk or spend time together, withhold affection: shutdown, or punish at <i>beginning</i> of closeness; statement or action that creates estrangement/ill will. Create distance & push partner away. |
| <u>MANIPULATION/</u> | Creates pity for offender. |
| <u>DISAGREEABLE:</u> | Builds guilt, blames others to make self appear smarter, better, in control - not because he's right. |

COPING STAGES

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>RECOGNITION:</u> | Disgraced, degraded, demeaned, Debased, torn down & lowered in Quality. Denied courtesy. |
| <u>PATTERN IDENTIFIED:</u> | Isolated incidents reoccur. |
| <u>TENSION:</u> | Unresolved emotional pain that has accumulated can create fear, wariness, nervousness, and anxiety. Like walking on egg shells or pins and needles. |
| <u>ACCEPTANCE:</u> | Getting used to inappropriate behavior can cause the recipient to think they deserve it, or that they are being over-sensitive. |
| <u>TO LESSEN PAIN & MEND FENCES</u> | Efforts to please offender, or win returned kindness are made with compliments & service. Taking treatment for granted & ignoring it can cause abused to think they deserve to be treated the way they are. |
| <u>APPROACH OFFENDER WITH PROBLEM:</u> | Ignoring or denying problems can create confusion, loneliness, frustration, despair & self-doubt in the offended person. 'Messing with their head.' |
| <u>SEEKING HELP:</u> | Hurt party seeks friend or professional for verification that they're not provoking circumstances & that it's reasonable to hurt in response to such treatment. Because no witnesses, frequently nobody knows the seriousness all too frequently. |
| <u>FIGHTING BACK:</u> | Being set up and provoked drags the abused into hostility, heated arguments & recrimination. |
| <u>SUFFER IN SILENCE TO KEEP PEACE:</u> | Feelings shut down. Mental blanks. |
| <u>DIVERTED FEELINGS:</u> | Redirecting Pain: Depression, illness, overreacting in anger toward unrelated things (misplacement). |
| <u>PHYSICAL ABUSE:</u> | Teasing, too close, invasion of space, accidental loss of control, direct anger. |

CHANGE IS INEVITABLE

Communications between two people that result in rude and insensitive, even uncaring conduct that will grieve God's Holy Spirit, causes pain to and offends the other; devaluating and degrading both people. Often the offender isn't motivated to change. It is possible to effect change, though, even without cooperation. Instead of judging the person's *motivation*, identify the unhealthy behavior's effect. Once you establish something is wrong and realize you want and need improvement in communications; when you pray and believe God for change and it doesn't happen you can create room for the change with further prayer, praise for God's faithfulness, continued commitment and calmness. Kindness and love can govern God's resolution. We can retrieve our lives from worldly and traditional communication, and grow in understanding with godly fruit.

Love covers a multitude of sin. 1 Peter 4:8b

Forgiveness can appear to be acceptance, denial, or encouragement of ungodly conduct. The practice of turning the other cheek does not retaliate, and doing good to those who persecute you does not return evil for evil. But, marriage is not a false idol. It is part of the New Testament church structure and there are Biblical instructions regarding both marriage and dissolution.

[Reference: Godly Submission in Marriage in *Accounted All Joy*, by Pastor Joy/scj]

When both parties accept responsibility for actively seeking improvement in their relationship they can (1) meet together to *discuss problems*, and (2) pray for God's guidance in their *statements and solutions*. Pray for an open mind and heart.

In evaluating problems, if it's hard to pinpoint how hurtful behavior begins, focus on one thing at a time. Discussion can illuminate visible patterns and create alternatives.

In meeting together to review progress, the acknowledged severity of the problem dissolves with the solution's sweetness. Hearts yielding to gospel principles will bring *true* companionship and love!

Keep in mind, man's traditional roles and worldly communication styles cause confusion, pain and guilt. Godly communication is loving and forgiving. It is gentle and brings peace.

✠ SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES ✠

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Matt 5:9 | Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God |
| 1 Cor 10:31 | Whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God |
| Rom 14:19 | Follow after things which make for peace ... edifying each other |
| Jms 3:17,18 | God's wisdom: pure, peaceable, gentle, easily entreated, merciful; no partial, hypocritical.. |
| Phil 4:8 | Think on what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, of any virtue & praise |
| Jms 1:2-6 | Trying faith works patience, which will perfect and complete you so you will lack nothing |
| 1 Peter 3:8,9 | .. compassion, love, courtesy: blessing, not repaying evil or revilings with the same.. |
| 1 Tim 5:22 | Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other's sins: keep thyself pure |
| Eph 4:30 | Don't grieve the Holy Spirit |
| Phil 2:3,4 | Do nothing through strife or vainglory ... esteem others as better than themselves ... |
| Eph 5:21 | Submit yourselves to one another in the fear of God |
| Jms 5:8,9 | Be patient, grudge not against another |
| Matt 18:21-35 | God will deliver to tormenters everyone who won't, from their heart, forgive their debtors |
| 2 Cor 12:20 | Do not be in debates, envying, wraths, strifes, backbiting, whisperings, swellings, tumults |
| 1 Cor 5:11-13 | Put away brethren who fornicate, covetous, idolaters, injurious speakers, drunkards... |
| 1 Cor 13 | Love is patient, kind, humble; neither envious, show-off, rude, selfish, quick-tempered... |
| Gal 5:22,23 | Fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patient, gentle, good, faith, meek, moderation |
| Rom 12:2 | Be not conformed to world, but transformed by renewing of your mind; prove God's will |
| Eph 4:29 | Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth...but build one another up... |
| Eph 4:31 | Put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, evil speaking and malice |
| Eph 4:32 | Be kind and tenderhearted, forgiving each other as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you |
| Eph 5:3b,4 | Do not be reported as filthy, speaking foolishly, or jesting, but giving thanks |
| Matt 12:36 | Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account of in the day of judgment |
| Jms 1:19 | Be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath |
| Prov 15:1 | A soft answer turns away strife; but grievous words stir up strife |
| Prov 26:21 | A contentious man kindles strife |
| Titus 3:2 | Speak evil of no man, be no brawler, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men |
| Gal 5:15 | If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another |
| Rev 21:8 | Liars have their part in the lake of fire |
| Jn 10:10 | The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus came to give abundant life |
| Prov 17:28 | The meek in spirit will inherit the Kingdom of God |
| 1 Jn 5:16 | If a man see his brother sin, not unto death, he shall ask and give him his life |
| Gal 6:1 | Restore a man overtaken in a fault, in a spirit of meekness lest ye also be tempted |
| Rom 12:21 | Be not overcome by evil, but overcome with good |
| Rom 1:28-32 | Have nothing to do with ... malicious, debate, malign, whisper, backbite... |
| 2 Thess 3:10 | Withdraw from disorderly brothers |
| 1 Cor 5:11 | Don't keep company with a brother who is fornicator, covetous, idolator, reviler, drunkard |
| Jms 3:10 | We should not speak both cursings and blessings |
| Matt 5:22 | Anger without a cause is as murder |
| Phil 2:3 | Let nothing be done through strife |
| Jms 3:14-16 | Where envying & strife is, there is confusion and evil work |
| Prov 17:14 | Strife's beginning is like letting water out: before meddling with contention leave it alone |
| Matt 12:29,30 | Take Jesus' yoke and learn of him |
| Matt 25:40 | Whatever you've done to least of the brethren you've done to Jesus -- |

Trying to mend
a broken heart
Without love
Is like trying
To live
Without Jesus.

If you don't know Jesus,
Or if you don't feel
Very close to Him
Right now ~

I especially hope
You'll take the time
To read
How very much
He loves you ~

I've asked Him to help you ~

Through the years of serving at the Lord's banquet table, and feasting on His Bread of Life and Covenant Cup, we began to better understand the greatness of God's provision in Christ Jesus. A Holy God so full of love for men that He gave them laws to teach them the difference between right and wrong. Then he made a sinless form of flesh for himself to dwell in by impregnating the virgin Mary by His Spirit. This child named Jesus grew up without sin and fulfilled all Jewish prophecies of a King to save his people with only a few recognizing him. Rejected by the Jewish church system of the day, he taught twelve students and ministered to the needs of multitudes, showing God's love for men with miracles. Then, he let the Jewish leaders turn him over to the government to a capital punishment sentence for a crime he did not commit.

By bearing sin with its curse, the blood of Jesus, having no sin in it, was received by His Father, God, as a perfect sacrificial offering to atone for all men's sins. He made it possible for us to be free from sin and its curses in this life, and to spend eternity with God after we die instead of damnation in Hell. He literally paid through unjust punishment the penalty of sin's curses for all who would accept His payment for their sins by faith. According to the Bible, before that the only provision God had given men to overcome those curses was by a Jewish priest's atonement offering of pure animal blood and meal. When Jesus became the perfect sacrifice he did it not only for the Jews who had rejected him, but for all other men as well. Death could not hold the flesh body Christ was crucified in. He took the keys of hell and death from the devil, and risen from the dead he brought captives up from hell with him, ministered in Jerusalem for forty days, and then ascended to sit on the right hand of God to intercede for those who believe God in Him. He sent His Spirit to comfort, teach and lead those who followed Him into all truth.

If you've never feasted at the Lord's Table I invite you to join the family of God. Your seat has been paid for, and your place has been set. When we tell Father God we're sorry for our wrongs and thank him for making us right and true through Jesus, those sins are washed away and we're all cleaned up for his banquet. Then, when we tell him that we love him He sees that place we've given Him in our hearts and He begins to pour His love into us. The Bible is His Word that is opened for us to feast upon, and those around us at His banquet can encourage and support one another as we grow to be more like him. You can come just like you are -- you are welcome!

Now, we who believe in Jesus' gift of salvation partake of God's Covenant Blessings knowing that Jesus' Body, broken as a grain of wheat became our Bread of Life to strengthen us and raise us from the dead in Him. And His exchange for the sinful fruit of our lives became our wine of redemption, His precious blood spilled instead of ours.

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CHAPTER XI. REAPING FROM THE LAND ~ Faithfulness ~

When a husband yokes with his wife in the marriage union, he celebrates in triumph, investing of himself in her. Like a man who plants a vineyard, he works the land, plants his seed, harvests and increases from its bounty. The good husbandman tends carefully to the land so that it will not be soiled or stripped of its assets. The land in its turn yields its assets and bears fruit under his hand.

When a husband and wife are not in agreement it can be compared to a land unsuited to the husbandman's needs.

As much as we hear of such marriages in the church today, it is but a reflection of the churches relationship with Jesus. We desire to be a land bearing one hundredfold⁵⁹⁹ fruit to the Lord, but too often we won't yield to God or receive what He wants to do in us or give to us. Can you imagine the Church demanding Christ, our bridegroom, use a condom on the wedding night?

When a man who has entered a whore, becoming one spirit with her,⁶⁰⁰ returns to his wife, his adultery is that of a man who vacationed abroad. Wisdom would not be enticed by a strange land's assets, laboring just because of its potential, to not reap anything but the satisfaction of his labor in idolatries. The whoremonger is an unthankful man, not satisfied in his own field, investing his treasure without profiting from his labor. The adultery of investing in foreign lands is idolatry in the church as well as in marriages. Repentance from a lack of thankfulness for our God-given portion is in order.

When the landowner left husbandmen to tend his vineyard while he went abroad, his servants and son were killed trying to collect the bounty of his field's harvest. He had to kill the thieves to reclaim his vineyard.⁶⁰¹ What kind of hireling would Wisdom leave to tend the field?⁶⁰² Would it be TV, public schools, shopping malls -- worldliness⁶⁰³? A good steward will no allow thieves to enter his land and steal from him?

If the landowner chose to depart from unyielding and defiled land to seek a place of peace for a new work, and found a new land bearing fruit with barns for his harvest, it would only be jealous pride that would cause him to tear them down because he wanted only the fruits of his own labor. Jesus harvests where he did not plant.⁶⁰⁴

'*Abba Father*,' we can cry, because we've been engrafted into His vine⁶⁰⁵ -- adopted into His family as joint-heirs with Christ.⁶⁰⁶ He took the fruits of a foreign nation and called us good⁶⁰⁷, saying '*Call no man on earth your father but your Father who is in heaven.*⁶⁰⁸ *Don't trace genealogies.*⁶⁰⁹ *Your old man has passed away, you've become new creatures in Christ Jesus*⁶¹⁰.' *Jesus took every inherited curse for us*⁶¹¹, including astrological⁶¹² and inherited characteristics so that we might grow up into the fullness of him⁶¹³, being conformed to his likeness.⁶¹⁴

It always comes back to love, which covers a multitude of sin.⁶¹⁵ The 'Father of Forgiveness'⁶¹⁶ killed the fatted calf to celebrate his errant son's repentance.⁶¹⁷

⁵⁹⁹ Mark 4:20

⁶⁰⁰ 1 Corinthians 6:15-17

⁶⁰¹ Matthew 21:33-41

⁶⁰² Luke 12:42-48

⁶⁰³ 1 John 2:15-17

⁶⁰⁴ Matthew 25:26

⁶⁰⁵ John 15:4-8; James 1:18-21

⁶⁰⁶ Romans 8:14-17

⁶⁰⁷ Galatians 3:8

⁶⁰⁸ Matthew 23:9

⁶⁰⁹ Titus 3:9; 1:4; Ephesians 3:14,15

⁶¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 5:17

⁶¹¹ Galatians 3:13

⁶¹² Jude 13

⁶¹³ Ephesians 4:15

⁶¹⁴ Romans 8:29,30

⁶¹⁵ 1 Peter 4:8

⁶¹⁶ Matthew 18:23-35

⁶¹⁷ Luke 15:21-32

CHAPTER XII.
STANDING IN THE FACE OF GREAT EVIL ~ Ephesians 6:10-18

Observing the brethren in Christ⁶¹⁸ getting their 'socks knocked- off'⁶¹⁹ in spiritual warfare⁶²⁰ keeps me in the fear of God.⁶²¹ This is not a declaration of being the 'right doctrine'⁶²² with all the answers, but a sincere attempt to assist others in their discipleship with Christ Jesus⁶²³ -- who was, and is, and is to come⁶²⁴; in whom I abide, and who abides in me⁶²⁵.

It is the blood of Jesus sealing these study notes, and the mercy of God I ask for you who share them with me.

May God bless you richly⁶²⁶ as you consider them in His presence⁶²⁷ -- Pastor Joy

All things were made for Jesus - good & evil.⁶²⁸

The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.⁶²⁹

Have a Spirit of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge & Fear of the Lord in Jesus⁶³⁰

Recognize the enemy's path & enter not therein.⁶³¹

Lest satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices⁶³².

My people are destroyed for lack of understanding.⁶³³

Those who follow after Jesus will do greater things than He.⁶³⁴



⁶¹⁸ Ephesians 6:18

⁶¹⁹ Deuteronomy 25:9

⁶²⁰ Ephesians 6:10-18

⁶²¹ Psalm 96:4

⁶²² Ephesians 4:14

⁶²³ Jude 1:3 2 Timothy 2:15 Ephesians 4:14

⁶²⁴ Revelations 1:8

⁶²⁵ John 15:5-8 John: 4:1-6

⁶²⁶ Colossians 3:16

⁶²⁷ Psalm 139:7

⁶²⁸ Colossians 1:16-20

⁶²⁹ Proverbs 15:3

⁶³⁰ Isaiah 11:2

⁶³¹ Proverbs 4:14,15

⁶³² 2 Corinthian 2:11

⁶³³ Hosea 4:6

⁶³⁴ John 14:12

WORKS OF DARKNESS:

This is not a discussion of works done in darkness⁶³⁵, but an accounting of their evil fruits.⁶³⁶

Spell Casting - conjuring of demonic forces, & casting them on target to accomplish specific manifestations.⁶³⁷ Examples:

Mind blanketing - insanity, mind control to think and speak on issues, or total character control.

Physical - illness, deformity, obesity, health violations, accidents

Sacrificial - blood spill and particular body parts

Situational - financial collapse, joblessness, adultery, rejection, isolation

Function: with religious form in action (encantations, voo-doo, laying on of hands⁶³⁸)

& paraphernalia (talismans) consecrated & anointed to evoke demonic power to manifest specific assignments.

Operation: established individually or in unison (creating a stronger spiritual impact) on creatures, people, places, things, dates.



COVENANT BLESSINGS versus Cursings ~ *Acquired by faith* ~

Jesus became every curse at Calvary for us, that by faith in his completed work we might walk free from every curse in the blessings of God!⁶³⁹

No weapon formed against us shall prosper & every tongue raised against us in judgment God will condemn, for this is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and our righteousness is in Him.⁶⁴⁰

*Ye shall not need to fight in this battle; set yourselves, stand ye still & see the salvation of the Lord with ye. .. Fear not nor be dismayed, the Lord will be with you!*⁶⁴¹

⁶³⁵ Ephesians 5:11-13 Luke 12:3

⁶³⁶ Deuteronomy 18:9-13 Acts 13:6-11 Proverbs 28:9

⁶³⁷ Acts 8:9,13; 16:16-18

Galatians 3:1

Exodus 8

1 Kings 18

Chick Pub: *The Crusaders Vol. IX: Witchcraft control of governments & Salem's Christian hangings resulted from witchcraft*

⁶³⁸ 1 Tim 5:22

⁶³⁹ Galatians 3

⁶⁴⁰ Isaiah 54:17

⁶⁴¹ 2 Chronicles 20:17

For now we see through a glass, darkly;
but then face to face:



Now I know in part; but then
shall I know even as also I am known.

Now abideth *FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY, these three; but the greatest of these is CHARITY*

1 Corinthians 13:12-13

LOVE COVERS A MULTITUDE OF SIN⁶⁴²



Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,
against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day,

and HAVING DONE ALL TO STAND!

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth,

and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench
all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,

and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth *boldly*,
to make known the mystery of the gospel⁶⁴³ ~



⁶⁴² 1 Peter 4:8b

⁶⁴³ Ephesians 6:10-19

DRESSED FOR THE OCCASSION -- Spiritual Warfare --

Loins Girt about with Truth:

Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me'.⁶⁴⁴

When a man's loins are girded with the **truth** of God's scriptural Covenant Word to bless His people through Christ Jesus, he will have the spiritual strength to do warfare **in** Jesus.⁶⁴⁵

He that believeth on Jesus shall have rivers of living water flow out of his belly.⁶⁴⁶

Breastplate of Righteousness:

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.⁶⁴⁷

The heart of the prudent gets knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.⁶⁴⁸

Breath of Life⁶⁴⁹

Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace:

In all thy ways acknowledge God and He will direct your paths.⁶⁵⁰

God will show me the path of life.⁶⁵¹

Study to show yourself a workman approved of God⁶⁵²

Shield of Faith, Wherewith Ye Shall Be Able to Quench all the Fiery Darts of the Wicked:

The Lord is the strength and shield of them that fear and trust Him.⁶⁵³

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.⁶⁵⁴

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.⁶⁵⁵

The prayers of righteous man avail much & our righteousness is the atoning blood of Jesus.⁶⁵⁶

Helmet of Salvation:

Meditate on God's Word all the time⁶⁵⁷ We have the mind of Christ Jesus.⁶⁵⁸

Cast down vain imaginations exalted against knowledge of God, capturing thoughts to obey Christ.⁶⁵⁹

⁶⁴⁴ John 14:6

⁶⁴⁵ 2 Corinthians 10:4

⁶⁴⁶ John 7:37-39

⁶⁴⁷ Proverbs 4:23

⁶⁴⁸ Proverbs 18:15

⁶⁴⁹ Ezekiel 37:1-14

⁶⁵⁰ Proverbs 3:5-8

⁶⁵¹ Psalm 16:11

⁶⁵² 2 Timothy 2:15

⁶⁵³ Psalm 115:11

⁶⁵⁴ Hebrews 11:1

James 1:6-8

⁶⁵⁵ Romans 10:17

⁶⁵⁶ James 5:16

⁶⁵⁷ Psalm 1:2

⁶⁵⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:16

⁶⁵⁹ 2 Corinthians 10:5

Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God:

Never let God's Word leave your mouth⁶⁶⁰ -- Speak it all the time!

Salvation is believed in the heart and spoken.⁶⁶¹

God's Word, ⁶⁶² cannot return void whereunto it is sent.⁶⁶³

Speak blessings and not cursings.⁶⁶⁴

Swordsmanship standard of excellence with responsibility.⁶⁶⁵

Spiritual Warfare Question: *If all scripture is true, why don't I just stand in faith for God's protection?*

Answer: You do! And you release God's Word, the Sword of the Spirit into the battle generated by *powers & principalities & rulers of the darkness of this world*, to divide between the soul and the spirit.⁶⁶⁶ It will sever between the carnal mind's agreement with observation, freeing spiritual faith for standing on the truth of God's Word -- in addition to effectively scattering the enemy.



THE SPIRIT OF MAN⁶⁶⁷

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints⁶⁶⁸

The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.⁶⁶⁹

We have not a spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and a sound mind.⁶⁷⁰

We have received the spirit of God for spiritual discernment.⁶⁷¹

The sons of God are led by His Spirit.⁶⁷²

⁶⁶⁰ Joshua 1:8,9

⁶⁶¹ Romans 10:8-10

⁶⁶² John 1:1,14

⁶⁶³ Isaiah 59:11

⁶⁶⁴ James 3:10

⁶⁶⁵ Praying Amiss in 'Accounted All Joy'

⁶⁶⁶ Hebrews 4:12

⁶⁶⁷ 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Proverbs 20:27

⁶⁶⁸ Hebrews 6:1 - Interpretation of Tongues in 'Accounted All Joy'

⁶⁶⁹ Proverbs 20:27

⁶⁷⁰ 2 Timothy 1:7

⁶⁷¹ 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

⁶⁷² Romans 8:14



STANDING IN THE GAP⁶⁷³

Joshua & Caleb trusted in the Lord⁶⁷⁴

I come to you in the name of the Lord... proclaimed David against giant Goliath.⁶⁷⁵

Satan cannot touch anything in your life unless God allows it.⁶⁷⁶

Out of suckling babes mouths God ordained strength so He could still the enemy and the avenger.⁶⁷⁷

Jesus said we'd have to be converted & become like little children to enter the kingdom of heaven.⁶⁷⁸

Of some have compassion, making a difference; others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire. . .⁶⁷⁹

This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting.⁶⁸⁰



*Ye water lappin' 'Giddeonites'⁶⁸¹ - Stand in the Strength of your God!⁶⁸²
~ The Barley Loaf Has Fallen ~*

⁶⁷³ Ezekiel 22:30

⁶⁷⁴ Numbers 14:7-9

⁶⁷⁵ 1 Samuel 17:45-47

⁶⁷⁶ Job 1:9-12

⁶⁷⁷ Psalm 8:2

⁶⁷⁸ Matthew 18:3

⁶⁷⁹ Jude 1:22,23

⁶⁸⁰ Mark 9:29

Isaiah 58

Luke 11:20-26

⁶⁸¹ Judges 7

⁶⁸² Isaiah 49:5

CHAPTER XIII. LOOKING AT LIFE THROUGH THE CROSS

Power of Jesus' Resurrection: Philippians 3:8-11

'In pressing for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus'⁶⁸³ I've found twenty points to ponder. As the 'unworthy publican',⁶⁸⁴ I share these principles for contemplation without conclusive doctrinal standards.

'...I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some...' ⁶⁸⁵ Since coming to the peaceable accounting of God as perfecter of His people⁶⁸⁶, I thoroughly enjoy free-thinking with Jesus. We do not contradict, but go from depth to depth in the richness of God's wisdom⁶⁸⁷. When disciples are not discerning Holy Spirit on a matter, it's important to remember His recommend that the merciful will be given mercy. Critical judgment without spiritual discernment⁶⁸⁸ or confessing another man's sin⁶⁸⁹ can kill⁶⁹⁰. Executing⁶⁹¹ the letter of the law⁶⁹² in church discipline without prayers and supplications,⁶⁹³ and seeking God for a place to fast⁶⁹⁴ for His mercy for the brethren of concern can kill, versus functioning out of the spirit of the law to bring life. Only God knows why some folks do what they do.⁶⁹⁵ Reaching out to a brother in a spirit of meekness lest ye be tempted, to try to restore⁶⁹⁶ him will cover a multitude of sin⁶⁹⁷.

1. DO IT FOR JESUS

- Living consecrated⁶⁹⁸ and sanctified by the truth of God's word⁶⁹⁹
- *Set aside and holy* -- We are a living sacrifice,⁷⁰⁰ not our own.⁷⁰¹

2. IMPOSTERS OF THE CROSS

- Forgive those who trespass against you⁷⁰² -- Faith without works is dead⁷⁰³ --
- Children of God, repay good for evil⁷⁰⁴
- Pharisee's leaven -- pride, greed, and self-righteousness keeps men from the kingdom of heaven⁷⁰⁵

⁶⁸³ Psalm 119:11
⁶⁸⁴ Luke 18:10,14
⁶⁸⁵ 1 Corinthians 9: 20-24
⁶⁸⁶ Romans 14:4
⁶⁸⁷ Romans 11:33
⁶⁸⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:14-16
⁶⁸⁹ 1 John 5:16
⁶⁹⁰ John 20:23
⁶⁹¹ 1 Corinthians 5:3-5
⁶⁹² 2 Corinthians 3:6
⁶⁹³ Ephesians 6:18
⁶⁹⁴ Isaiah 58:6-14
⁶⁹⁵ Judge by HS
⁶⁹⁶ Galatians 6:1
⁶⁹⁷ 1 Peter 4:8b
⁶⁹⁸ Hebrews 10:16-20,26
⁶⁹⁹ John 17:17
⁷⁰⁰ Romans 12:1
⁷⁰¹ 1 Corinthians 6:19,20
⁷⁰² Matt 18:21-35
⁷⁰³ James 2:26
⁷⁰⁴ Matt 5:44-48
⁷⁰⁵ Matthew 23

- Hypocrites worship God in vain, teaching men's doctrines and cursing their parents⁷⁰⁶
 - Come out from among them & be ye separate, saith the Lord; I will be their God & they my people⁷⁰⁷
 - Love not the things of this world⁷⁰⁸ -- Salvation by faith is not license to sin⁷⁰⁹
 - *The Gospel of Jesus Christ in a Humanistic format reinforces social conformity to worldly traditions -- Social Interaction in quantity does not represent quality interaction or Christian fellowship.*
3. INDEPENDENT & SELF-SUFFICIENT versus CHRIST-SUFFICIENT⁷¹⁰ & VINED-IN⁷¹¹
- Without Jesus we can do nothing⁷¹²
 - The early New Testament Church had all things in common⁷¹³ *versus*
He who is greedy of gain (more, more, more) troubles his own household⁷¹⁴
 - Withdraw from those who consider gain to be godliness; for godliness with contentment is great gain⁷¹⁵
 - Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.⁷¹⁶
4. SUBMISSION versus CONTROL
- This does not mean that you give authority of yourself & responsibility for your actions away⁷¹⁷
 - It means considering others needs with your own, with respect to their position in Christ⁷¹⁸.
 - It relates to others with the fruit of the spirit instead of the flesh⁷¹⁹, and with love⁷²⁰.
5. FAMILY as part of the New Testament Church
- Hypocrites worship God in vain, teaching men's doctrines and cursing their parents⁷²¹
 - Submit to those who have authority over you because they must give account⁷²²
 - God setteth the solitary in families⁷²³
 - God sets the poor high above affliction, and make his families like a flock⁷²⁴
 - ..the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named⁷²⁵
 - New Testament church relationships submit to one another, wife to husband, & husband as Christ to his wife⁷²⁶

⁷⁰⁶ Mark 7:6-10

⁷⁰⁷ 2 Corinthians 6:12-18

⁷⁰⁸ 1 John 2:15-17

⁷⁰⁹ Hebrews 10:26

⁷¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 9:8

⁷¹¹ John 15:4

⁷¹² John 15:5c

⁷¹³ Acts 2:44-47

⁷¹⁴ Proverbs 15:27

⁷¹⁵ 1 Timothy 6:3-12

⁷¹⁶ Ephesians 4:1b-3

⁷¹⁷ Acts 5:1-10

⁷¹⁸ Ephesians 5:21

⁷¹⁹ Galatians 5:16-26

2 Timothy 3:1-9

⁷²⁰ 1 Corinthians 13

⁷²¹ Mark 7:6-10

⁷²² Hebrews 13:17

⁷²³ Psalm 68:6a

⁷²⁴ Psalm 107:41

⁷²⁵ Ephesians 3:14b,15

⁷²⁶ Ephesians 5:21-33

- The family is established and instructed as part of the New Testament Church structure⁷²⁷

6. HOLY SPIRIT

- There is neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (heirs according to Abraham's promise) That the blessing of God might come on the gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.⁷²⁸
- We are coheirs with Christ having the firstfruits of the Spirit⁷²⁹
- You need not have man teach you, for your unction is from the Holy One⁷³⁰
- *Is Holy Spirit separate from his action?* Cursing Jesus will be forgiven, blaspheming Holy Spirit will not⁷³¹.
- God's children know the voice of Jesus and won't be led astray⁷³²
- Pray with interpretation of angelic prayer language⁷³³

Prophecies 3 Forms:

- Whether there be prophecies, they shall fail⁷³⁴--
- Moses sought God to not destroy Israel and God repented toward his people⁷³⁵
 - Jesus forgives sin & has mercy, not sacrifice⁷³⁶
 - Jonah called for repentance and God's wrath was stayed⁷³⁷
 - God's Judgment Fulfilled⁷³⁸

7. FORGIVENESS DOES NOT NECESSARILY RESTORE RELATIONSHIPS

- Because of the price Jesus paid for an offender's trespass we can forgive them⁷³⁹
- If they do not repent or change their ways we may turn our other cheek to them without retaliation⁷⁴⁰
- That does not require that we continue to make ourself vulnerable to their actions⁷⁴¹
- The New Testament Church's instruction for offenses requires confrontation, and in some cases separation⁷⁴²
- Do not take pleasure in reprobates⁷⁴³
- A 'Good-Ol'-Boy' Ahab seeks man's approval by approving others, won't reprove or abstain from others sin, and manipulates others passively to accomplish his purposes⁷⁴⁴

⁷²⁷ Colossians 3:17-25

⁷²⁸ Gal 3:28,29,14

⁷²⁹ Romans 8:17,23

⁷³⁰ 1 John 2:20,27

⁷³¹ Luke 12:10

⁷³² John 10:27-30

⁷³³ 1 Corinthians 14:13-15

⁷³⁴ 1 Corinthians 13:8

⁷³⁵ Exodus 32:9-14

⁷³⁶ Matthew 9:5,13 1 John 5:16

⁷³⁷ Jonah 3

⁷³⁸ Ezekiel 22:30

⁷³⁹ Matthew 18:21-35

⁷⁴⁰ Matthew 5:39-48

⁷⁴¹ 2 Thessalonians 3:6

⁷⁴² Matthew 18:17-17

⁷⁴³ Romans 1:28,32

⁷⁴⁴ 1 Kings 21:4-7

8. SHUN WHAT IS EVIL

- Abstain from all appearance of evil⁷⁴⁵
- Be not conformed to this world⁷⁴⁶
- Do not spend *idle idol* time in carousing, drunkenness, lasciviousness, riotous living⁷⁴⁷
- Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers . . . separate yourselves⁷⁴⁸
- Love not the things of this world⁷⁴⁹
- *What's right is frequently not received, recognized or approved.* Jesus said, . . the world hates them because, like me, they are not of the world . . that they may all be one, as thou Father art in me. . and one in us⁷⁵⁰

9. DO WHAT YOU ENJOY or --

- If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow *Jesus*⁷⁵¹
- As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God⁷⁵²
- Consider others as better than yourself and submit to their needs⁷⁵³
- Hypocrisy of the Pharisees is the leaven of pride & greed; manipulation by rejection⁷⁵⁴
- *If you need men's approval you can be controlled -- But,* Jesus said, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive ye into everlasting habitations⁷⁵⁵

10. BRING JOY TO OTHERS through love instead of teasing --

- Cast out the mocker and scorner and contention and strife will leave; yes, strife and reproach shall cease⁷⁵⁶
- Live soberly⁷⁵⁷ -- *as in think about what you're doing & its effects*
- Neither speak foolishly or jest, but give thanks⁷⁵⁸
- Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which will edify⁷⁵⁹
- *Laughter is not an idol to be served at any price*⁷⁶⁰
- Liars will have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone⁷⁶¹

⁷⁴⁵ 1 Thessalonians 5:22

⁷⁴⁶ Romans 12:2

⁷⁴⁷ 1 Peter 4:1-8

⁷⁴⁸ 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

⁷⁴⁹ 1 John 2:15-17

⁷⁵⁰ John 17:14-21

⁷⁵¹ Luke 9:23

⁷⁵² Romans 8:14

⁷⁵³ Ephesians 5:21

⁷⁵⁴ Matthew 23

⁷⁵⁵ Luke 16:9

⁷⁵⁶ Proverbs 22:10

⁷⁵⁷ Titus 2:7,8,12

⁷⁵⁸ Ephesians 5:4

⁷⁵⁹ Ephesians 4:29

⁷⁶⁰ 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

⁷⁶¹ Revelations 21:8

11. PLAYBOYS -- Idolatry of Irresponsibility

- The difference between a tool and a toy is a man and a boy⁷⁶²
- *Regarding 'staying a child forever':* When I was I child...but when I became a man I put away childish things⁷⁶³
- . . until we all.. come unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ⁷⁶⁴
- Prepare yourself in the field without before building your house⁷⁶⁵
- *Regarding Drugs & Fantasy Escapes* -- Cast down vain imaginations exalted against the knowledge of God⁷⁶⁶
- *Reality has consequences* -- Have not a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind⁷⁶⁷
- Depression⁷⁶⁸ -- Unthankful⁷⁶⁹ -- Rebellion⁷⁷⁰
- *Stewardship of time & money downplays sports & leisure activities in a pleasure seeking society*

12. SPORTS

- *Glory boys* -- God will have no flesh glory in his presence . . let he that glories, do it in the Lord⁷⁷¹
- *Worship of False Idols in Time and Money appropriation* -- ⁷⁷²
- *Money mismanagement* -- He who is faithful in little is faithful in much⁷⁷³
- *Indolent Observers* -- Sluggard won't pull hand to wipe mouth⁷⁷⁴
- *Spectators identify with game players through vain imaginations⁷⁷⁵, dwelling on the past⁷⁷⁶*
- *Gambling* -- Following after vain persons brings poverty, but he who tills his land will eat⁷⁷⁷
- You cannot serve both God and Money⁷⁷⁸
- *Competition & Manipulation by Degradation:* Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves⁷⁷⁹
- Fear of God hates evil: pride, and arrogancy; the evil way and the froward mouth, does He hate⁷⁸⁰
- *Team Work versus Degradation Control:* Give thanks always for all things to God, in Jesus name, submitting yourselves to each other in the fear of God⁷⁸¹
- By humility & fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life⁷⁸²

⁷⁶² 1 Peter 1:14-17

⁷⁶³ 1 Corinthians 13:11

⁷⁶⁴ Ephesians 4:13

⁷⁶⁵ Proverbs

⁷⁶⁶ 2 Corinthians 10:5

⁷⁶⁷ 2 Timothy 1:7

⁷⁶⁸ Isaiah 53:3-7

⁷⁶⁹ Ephesians 5:20,21

⁷⁷⁰ 1 Samuel 15:23

⁷⁷¹ 1 Corinthians 1:29-31

⁷⁷² Romans 12:1; 1:25

Deuteronomy 11:16

⁷⁷³ Luke 16:10-13

⁷⁷⁴ Proverbs 18:24

⁷⁷⁵ 2 Corinthians 10:5

⁷⁷⁶ Philippians 3:13,14

⁷⁷⁷ Proverbs 28:19

⁷⁷⁸ Luke 16:13

⁷⁷⁹ Philippians 2:3

⁷⁸⁰ Proverbs 8:13

⁷⁸¹ Ephesians 5:20,21

⁷⁸² Proverbs 22:4

- *Rebellious lust, as witchcraft, oppresses victims*⁷⁸³-- Jesus said, Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame⁷⁸⁴
- *Being the best you can be is not the same as doing the best you can as unto the Lord*
- *Sport /Game Playing Addiction requires continual gratification* -- Do not be abusers of the world⁷⁸⁵
- Love not the world, neither the things in it . . for the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life is not of the Father, but of the world⁷⁸⁶

13. ACTOR -- artifice; master deceiver

- What is discretion⁷⁸⁷ versus guile⁷⁸⁸
- Liars & deceivers will not enter Kingdom of God⁷⁸⁹
- *Acting is not the same as a political ambassador's exercise of control*
- *Portraying a role in a story is not deceptive, but the ability to deceive & walk in vain imaginations is*
- *See entertainment scripture references -- #12 Sports*

14. TEMPLE WHORES of Babylon

- *Elis' sons did not heed their father's instruction, sleeping with the temple whores*⁷⁹⁰ -- *the wages of sin are death*⁷⁹¹
- *What's the difference between shaking on the lake with a beer & on a disco bar? The lights*⁷⁹² *Bikini campers seduce God's 'levi hands'*⁷⁹³
- *Playing Games for Men's Approval in Social Standing Condescends to Manipulation & Flattery* -- If you sew to the flesh you reap of the flesh, sew to the spirit reap of the spirit⁷⁹⁴
- What is a hypocrite⁷⁹⁵?
- Our bodies are God's temple⁷⁹⁶ Jesus said, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves⁷⁹⁷
- *Rebellious lust, as witchcraft, oppresses victims*⁷⁹⁸-- Jesus said, Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame⁷⁹⁹

⁷⁸³ 1 Samuel 15:23
⁷⁸⁴ Revelations 16:15
⁷⁸⁵ 1 Corinthians 6:9
⁷⁸⁶ 1 John 2:15-17
⁷⁸⁷ Proverbs 2:11
⁷⁸⁸ Psalm 34:13
⁷⁸⁹ Revelations 21:8
 Titus 1:10,11
⁷⁹⁰ 1 Samuel 1:22
⁷⁹¹ Romans 6:23
⁷⁹² Matthew 6:22,23
⁷⁹³ 1 John 2:15-17
 Matthew 18:6
⁷⁹⁴ Galatians 6:7-9
⁷⁹⁵ Matthew 7:5
 Titus 1:15
⁷⁹⁶ 1 Corinthians 6:19
⁷⁹⁷ Matthew 21:12,13
⁷⁹⁸ 1 Samuel 15:23
⁷⁹⁹ Revelations 16:15

- Lust of eyes causes sin⁸⁰⁰ -- *Slacks with a high-cut crotch that cracks the butt are reminders of the King who was tricked into wearing invisible clothes. And yet, Jesus bore the burden of ridicule with judgments for those who wear such attire -- It is God who perfects His servants*⁸⁰¹
- Cover the weaker parts⁸⁰²
- Judge that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way⁸⁰³

16. WITCHCRAFT of WORD CURSES

- Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account of in the day of judgment. For by thy words thy words thou shalt be justified, by thy words thou shalt be condemned⁸⁰⁴
- Thy mouth ought not to speak forth blessings and cursings⁸⁰⁵
- Comfort yourselves together and edify one another⁸⁰⁶
- Look diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled⁸⁰⁷
- The things that come out of a man defile him⁸⁰⁸
- If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another⁸⁰⁹
- Only by pride comes contention: but with the well advised is wisdom⁸¹⁰
- Rebelliousness is as the sin of witchcraft⁸¹¹
- *Reference 'Praying Amiss' section*

17. HEALTH BLESSINGS & CURSINGS

- . . With *Jesus'* stripes we are healed . . .⁸¹²
- Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God⁸¹³
- Bless the Lord who . . . heals all thy diseases . . . thy youth is renewed like the eagles⁸¹⁴
- With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation⁸¹⁵
- I am as strong this day as when Moses sent me . . . for war, both to go out and to come in⁸¹⁶
- Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his arm⁸¹⁷
- It is the things that come out of a man that defile him⁸¹⁸ -- *his spoken beliefs*

⁸⁰⁰ 1 John 2:15-17
⁸⁰¹ Romans 14:4
⁸⁰² 1 Corinthians 12:24
⁸⁰³ Romans 14:13
⁸⁰⁴ Matthew 12:36,37
⁸⁰⁵ James 3:10
⁸⁰⁶ 1 Thessalonians 5:11
⁸⁰⁷ Hebrews 12:15
⁸⁰⁸ Mark 7:18-23
⁸⁰⁹ Galatians 5:15
⁸¹⁰ Proverbs 13:10
⁸¹¹ 1 Samuel 15:23
⁸¹² Isaiah 53:3-5
⁸¹³ Romans 10:17
⁸¹⁴ Psalm 103:1-5
⁸¹⁵ Psalm 91:16
⁸¹⁶ Joshua 14:11
⁸¹⁷ Jeremiah 17:5
2 Chronicles 16:12,13
⁸¹⁸ Mark 7:19

18. WAR

- . . Comes from your lust to have, and to lustfully consume what you obtain⁸¹⁹
- We fight not against flesh & blood ⁸²⁰ . . . Lest ye be the spoils of war ⁸²¹ . . .
- When ye hear of wars and rumors of wars be not troubled, for such things need be⁸²²
- Children of God return good for evil⁸²³
- All they that take the sword shall perish by the sword⁸²⁴
- Wisdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner destroys much good⁸²⁵
- Jesus said, My kingdom is not of this world, if it was my servants would fight . . ⁸²⁶
- It was given to the beast to make war with the saints, and overcome them⁸²⁷
- They overcame by the blood of the lamb, word of their testimony & loved not their lives to death⁸²⁸
- No man that wars entangles himself with the affairs of this life, so as to please him who chose him⁸²⁹
- Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teaches my hands to war, and my fingers to fight⁸³⁰

19. DEPRESSION / ANGER / FRUSTRATION = OPPRESSION

- The Comforter, the Holy Ghost, will teach you all things⁸³¹ and lead you into all truth⁸³²
- Jesus heals brokenhearted, delivers captives, liberates the bruised⁸³³
- Seed Planter Parable: No understanding, tribulations, persecutions, cares of life, deceitful riches⁸³⁴
- *Resentment*⁸³⁵ - *Spoiled*⁸³⁶ - *Unthankful*⁸³⁷
- *Regrets his present situation: compares; competitive; defensive toward critical judgments, expectations, and needs*⁸³⁸
- *Envy*⁸³⁹: *Desires to be the best,* ⁸⁴⁰ *approved, accepted, understood*⁸⁴¹ -- *conformed to world*⁸⁴²

⁸¹⁹ James 4
⁸²⁰ Ephesians 6:10-18
⁸²¹ Colossians 2:8
⁸²² Mark 13:7
⁸²³ Matthew 5:38-48
⁸²⁴ Matthew 26:52
⁸²⁵ Ecclesiastes 9:18
⁸²⁶ John 18:36
⁸²⁷ Revelations 13:7
⁸²⁸ Revelations 12:11
⁸²⁹ 2 Timothy 2:4
⁸³⁰ Psalm 144:1,2
⁸³¹ John 14:26
⁸³² John 15:26,27
⁸³³ Luke 4:18,19
⁸³⁴ Matthew 13:3-23
⁸³⁵ 1 Kings 21:4,5
⁸³⁶ Colossians 2:8
⁸³⁷ Ephesians 5:20
⁸³⁸ Galatians 2:20,21
⁸³⁹ Galatians 5:19-21
James 4:5,6
⁸⁴⁰ Reference #12
⁸⁴¹ 2 Corinthians 6
⁸⁴² Romans 12:2

- *Social Survival Skills: Manipulation by peers, parents & social standards require conformity for the approval needed to function cohesively in society⁸⁴³. Dependency creates vulnerability to being set-up, slandered, manipulated, revenged & destroyed⁸⁴⁴*
- *Sometimes frustration is a short-circuiting between desires, needs, the old man⁸⁴⁵ & godly wisdom⁸⁴⁶*

20. LOVE = OBEY

- Love God with all your heart (emotions), mind (thoughts), soul (will), and strength (actions), and your neighbor as yourself⁸⁴⁷.
- The love of God is to keep His commandments⁸⁴⁸
- If you love Jesus, keep his words from the Father⁸⁴⁹
- Jesus said love one another as I have loved you⁸⁵⁰.
- Perfect love casts out all fear⁸⁵¹.
- Love your enemies so that you can be the children of your Father, who blesses the evil and unjust⁸⁵².
- *A decision to love is lining my will up with God.*
- *An action of love is doing what God says to do.*
- *My actions come from my faith in the truth of God's Word -- not my emotions, worldly knowledge, or opinions!*
- *When we choose to love, we can minister God's healings and win some to Christ.*
- Our love will cover a multitude of sin⁸⁵³ *perpetrated against and accomplished by the person we're loving.*

⁸⁴³ Luke 16:9

⁸⁴⁴ 2 Colossians 6

Matthew 10:22

⁸⁴⁵ Ephesians 4:22-32

⁸⁴⁶ James 3:17,18

⁸⁴⁷ Matthew 22:37-40

⁸⁴⁸ 1 John 5:3

⁸⁴⁹ John 14:15,21-24

⁸⁵⁰ John 15:12

⁸⁵¹ 1 John 4:18

⁸⁵² Luke 6:35

⁸⁵³ 1 Peter 4:8b